BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.56 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 48 | PRICE ₹6**

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 18 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 6 PAGES OF TIMES PROPERTY* (*CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Ace shuttler **Lakshya Sen** battles past Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus in three games to **reach the All England Open quarterfinals,** P 18

**Daren Sammy,** head coach of Windies cricket team, expressed **frustration after the squad remained stranded** due to airspace curbs. Posted on X: "I just wanna go home. At least an update, tell us something. Today tmw, next week. It's been 5 days," **P 19**

Hammered in ODIs, **Harmanpreet-led side will expect senior players to step up against Australia** in a day-night Test starting at Perth today, with India entering the match with confidence, **P 18**

Anthropic chief **Dario Amodei** resumes talks with the US Department of Defence over **use of its AI models by the US military,** after discussions broke down last week over safeguards against autonomous weapons deployment

# 'Always wished to be in both Houses': Nitish files RS papers

## JDU Workers Vandalise Office, Allege BJP Plot

**Madan.Kumar**@timesofindia.com

**Patna:** Nitish Kumar filed Thursday nomination papers for Rajya Sabha, brushing aside objections from family members and unrest within JD(U) in a move widely seen as signalling the approaching end of his record tenure as Bihar chief minister.

The decision makes it clear that there will be a transition in Patna, potentially paving the way for a BJP-led govt.

JD(U) functionaries and relatives said party president Nitish, 75, faced strong resistance at home before proceeding. "Not only his son Nishant but the entire family tried to convince Nitishji right through the night so that he does not go to Rajya Sabha at this juncture, but he remained adamant on his decision," said the CM's brother-in-law Anil Kumar.

### DECKS NOW CLEAR FOR A BJP-LED GOVT IN BIHAR?

Photo: ANI

Nitish Kumar, flanked by Union minister Amit Shah and state deputy chief minister CM Samrat Choudhary, files his nomination papers for RS polls

> There has been a desire in my heart to become a member of both Houses of Bihar legislature as well as both Houses of Parliament. In keeping with this aspiration, I seek to become a member of RS...
> — **Nitish Kumar** | Bihar CM

> For past two decades, Nitish govt's commitment and dedicated leadership for welfare of the people of Bihar has freed the state from jungle raj... His dignified presence (in RS) will further strengthen NDA's resolve of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas
> — **Amit Shah** | Union home minister

> Nitish ji has been made to mount the horse like a groom but the wedding vows will be taken with someone else
> — **Tejashwi Yadav** | RJD

▶ **Wily strategist who made CM seat his own,** P 13 | ▶ **Spotlight on Nishant, cadre clamour for him,** P 13 | ▶ **Probable 5 faces likely to replace Nitish,** P 13

Nitish hasn't quit as CM yet, though political circles expect that step once parliamentary formalities conclude.

He filed his papers accompanied by Union home minister Amit Shah, who flew in from New Delhi. "Throughout his political journey serving as MLA, MP, CM, and Union minister, Nitish Kumar has maintained an unblemished public life," Shah said, adding that his tenure as CM will be remembered as a "golden era" as he "has been instrumental in advancing Bihar's development in multiple sectors".

"Nitish Kumarji worked to liberate Bihar from the jungle raj," Shah said. "All NDA partners welcome Nitish Kumarji upon his entry into Rajya Sabha."

Nitish's decision triggered turmoil within JD(U). Workers vandalised party office in Patna, accusing BJP of engineering a "conspiracy" with help from "traitors within party". Demonstrations and sit-ins spread across parts of Bihar, urging Nitish to reverse his decision.

▶ **Dimension of growth, P 13**

## Where are the missing students, BEO asks schools

Alarmed by the number of students who dropped out during the transition from Class 9 to Class 10 in some govt schools in North Bengaluru, the BEO issued notices to the institutions asking them to explain the whereabouts of the missing students, **reports Sruthy Susan Ullas.** At KPS Hebbal, there were 171 students in Class 9 last year, but only 129 registered for the Class 10 exams. **P 6**

## Study links moist heatwaves to Europe

Rossby atmospheric waves originating near Europe's west coast travel via a Middle East–Indian Ocean path and arrive over India as upper-air high-pressure systems, suppressing clouds and baking the surface, finds a study. Acting with anomalous warming of Bay of Bengal, it turns a bad heatwave into a worse moist one that is on the rise. **P 10**

## Minor raped, killed in Bihar, teen held

The body of a 13-year-old girl, with clear strangulation marks and physical injuries, was found from a bamboo grove near her home in Bihar's Purnia district Wednesday evening. A 16-year-old boy, accused of raping and killing her, was detained Thursday. TNN

## Illegal mining: CISF can soon prosecute

The Centre has decided to grant CISF powers to initiate legal proceedings against illegal coal miners, said the CISF DG. At present, its role is limited to guarding 10 mines, with enforcement authority resting with mining officials and police. **P 10**

# Ex-envoy Sandhu is new Delhi LG, TN guv Ravi goes to Bengal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi/Kolkata:** Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi has replaced C V Ananda Bose as the new governor of West Bengal, while former ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu will be the new L-G of Delhi as part of a larger gubernatorial reshuffle. The move to appoint Ravi as Bengal governor immediately came under fire from the CM of the poll-bound state, Mamata Banerjee.

The appointment of Ravi, a former IPS officer who had frequent run-ins with the DMK govt, comes days ahead of the announcement of poll dates for Bengal and other states.

As part of the changes announced by Rashtrapati Bhavan, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the governor of Kerala, has been given an additional charge of TN, while Lt General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), a well-known security expert, has substituted Arif Mohammad Khan as governor of Bihar, and Jishnu Dev Varma, governor of Telangana, has been appointed as Maharashtra governor.

Other changes include UT of Ladakh L-G Kavinder Gupta being elevated to governor of Himachal Pradesh in place of Shiv Pratap Shukla, who has been shifted to Telangana. Current Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has been moved to Ladakh as the new L-G. BJP politician and former Bihar Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav is the new Nagaland governor.

Bose, whose tenure was marked by his repeated confrontations with the Mamata-led TMC govt, announced his resignation from Delhi.

▶ **Did not consult, P 11**

### MAJOR RESHUFFLE IN RAJ BHAVANS

- Kerala guv **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar gets addl charge of TN,** replacing R N Ravi
- Lt Gen **Syed Ata Hasnain** (retd) replaces Arif Mohd Khan as **Bihar governor**
- Telangana **governor Jishnu Dev Varma** appointed

**Maharashtra governor**

- Ladakh L-G **Kavinder Gupta** elevated as **Himachal Pradesh governor; Shiv Pratap Shukla moved to Telangana**
- Former Bihar Speaker **Nand Kishore Yadav named Nagaland governor**

### STAGE SET FOR RAJYA SABHA POLLS, NDA VS OPPN TIEUP IN ODISHA, BIHAR

Photo: PTI

Trinamool's RS (L-R) candidates ex-DGP Rajeev Kumar, minister Babul Supriyo, actor Koel Mullick, and SC advocate Menaka Guruswamy after filing papers

- 40 candidates file papers on last day of nomination for **37 Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant in 10 states.** Keen contest expected in one seat each in Bihar, Odisha and Haryana
- Seven seats falling vacant in Maharashtra, 6 in TN, 5 each in Bihar and West Bengal, 4 in Odisha, 3 in Assam and 2 each in Haryana, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, besides one seat in Himachal Pradesh. **Polling on March 16**
- **Rare BJD-Cong tie-up in Odisha** as latter backs BJD's candidate, Datteswar Hota. BJP backs former Union minister Dilip Ray, contesting as an independent
- **NCP (SP), Cong and Sena (UBT) back Sharad Pawar's renomination for lone seat they can win** in the state. **Parth Pawar, son of late deputy CM Ajit Pawar, nominated** by governing NCP
- **RJD renomination of MP and businessman A D Singh** forces contest on 1 seat in Bihar
- **BJP's Sanjay Bhatia, Cong's Karamvir Boudh & independent Satish Nandal,** who had contested 2019 state polls as BJP nominee, face off in Haryana

## Courts must deal with disobedient litigants with an iron hand, says SC

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**New Delhi:** Criticising the practice of litigants, particularly govt authorities, of not complying with court orders and filing appeals or review pleas when faced with contempt proceedings, Supreme Court has said the court should deal with them harshly, otherwise public faith in the judiciary would erode.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan also held that the defence of administrative hurdles, or even impossibility to perform what has been ordered, cannot be invoked in contempt proceedings if a contemner has failed to brief the court the difficulty in implementation of its order within the prescribed time limit.

▶ **Weaken rule of law, P 9**

### IN THE COURTS

- Karnataka high court **directs the state govt to consider mandatory police verification for live-in workers** to improve safety and prevent unfair targeting of migrant labourers | P 2
- Bombay high court cites security issues, **declines to allot site for namaz near Mumbai airport** for members of a taxi and auto drivers' union during Ramzan | P 9
- A **seven-year absence from education sector is 'intolerable', says Orissa HC,** dismissing a writ appeal filed by a contractual teaching assistant who challenged her disengagement after remaining absent for the said period

# K'taka bans practice of posting trained policemen as orderlies

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### TOP COPS STILL GET TO KEEP SOME

- According to latest govt orders, **police officials of the rank of deputy superintendent of police and above** are allotted 373 orderlies
- They will be drawn from a pool of **group 'D' employees**
- Similar **number of private individuals** too can be hired
- Total number of orderlies **that can be hired is 746**

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka has recently modified rules governing 'police orderlies' — originally a British-era practice of using lower-rung police personnel for personal or domestic work of senior officers. As per the new rules, they can no longer depute trained policemen as orderlies.

The govt order says no police constable or head constable will work as orderly or serve police officials. Banned by an order in 2016-17, the system was still partially active.

The fresh order issued in Feb says trained constables — who go through rigorous training to learn handling arms, law and order, and probe crime cases — will be effectively deployed in core policing duties only.

Originally designed as personal assistants to the officers, these orderlies' role was stretched to include doing household chores and helping officers' family in driving around and buying vegetables.

However, the system will continue in a new avatar.

▶ **Allotted 373 orderlies, P 2**

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TRANSFORMERS
POWERS THAT TRANSFORM
OPTIMUS PRIME
EVEREADY
ULTIMA
ALKALINE
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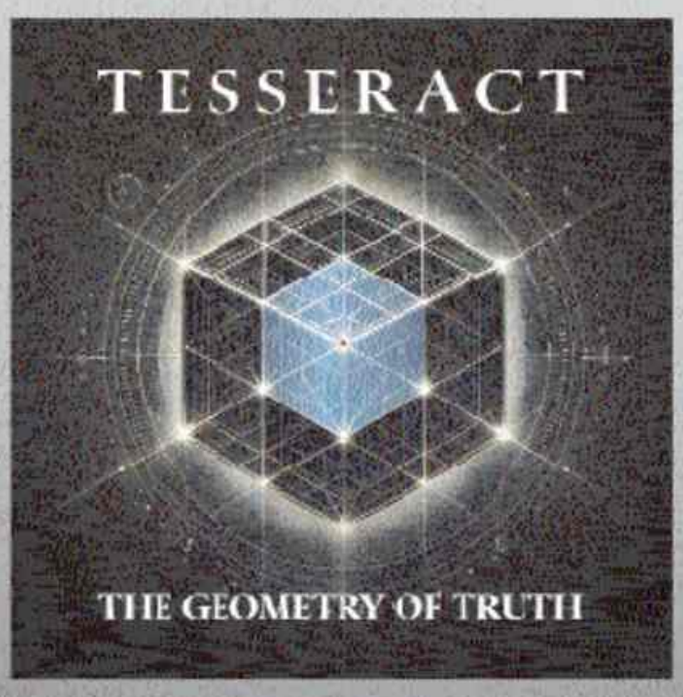
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Systems inherit their makers

We built maps that turned red,
and cities that dimmed the sky
Every invention left a fingerprint on the world
The past does not pause
It accrues,
questioning what we meant by progress

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# HC: Mull mandatory police checks for live-in workers

## Emphasises Awareness On Hiring Practices

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**The court overturned the acquittal of a domestic worker, her husband and two others in 2009 RT Nagar triple murder case and sentenced them to life imprisonment**

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka high court has directed the state govt to consider introducing mandatory police verification — similar to tenant checks — for workers hired within private premises, to strengthen safety and ensure migrant labourers are not unfairly targeted in crime incidents.

The court made the observation while overturning the acquittal of four persons in a 2009 triple murder case. All have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

A high court division bench comprising Justices HP Sandesh and Venkatesh Naik T directed the govt to examine the feasibility of creating a verification mechanism supported by online registration portals that allow homeowners to enter details of domestic helpers, caretakers, drivers, and construction workers.

The court noted that in several cases across the state, workers hired without background checks have later been linked to serious crimes committed on the premises where they were employed. It stressed that preventive mechanisms must not lead to stigmatisation of migrant workers, reminding authorities that criminal responsibility is individual — not collective — and that constitutional protections under Articles 14 and 21 guarantee equality and dignity for all persons.

The bench recommended large-scale public awareness campaigns through print, television, and digital platforms to educate citizens about safe hiring practices.

The court's remarks came while hearing an appeal related to a 2009 RT Nagar case. On Feb 15, 2009, professor Purushotham Lal Sachidev, wife Rita Sachidev, and son Munna Sachidev were found murdered inside their home. The culprits fled with gold jewellery, cash, silk saris, and silver items, and attempted to conceal the bodies.

The investigation led police to Suchitra Haldar, a domestic worker with the Sachidevs, and her husband Dipak Haldar, both from West Bengal. They were arrested along with Mohammad Sarbal alias Raj and Bidan Shikari, from Bengaluru. Police arrested the four suspects nearly 20 months after the crime. A fifth accused, Pradeep Naskar, is still missing.

In 2016, a trial court acquitted the four accused, citing insufficient evidence. Police challenged the verdict.

After reviewing the evidence, the high court found that the circumstantial chain pointed to the guilt of the accused, noting that the Haldar couple had absconded immediately after the murders and failed to offer a credible explanation.

The court convicted them of murder, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence, sentencing them to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 30,000 each. Of the total penalty amount, 80% will be paid as compensation to Anurag Sachidev, the adopted son of the deceased professor.

# State police officials allotted 373 orderlies

▶ Continued from page 1

Karnataka Police Manual allocates orderlies (or 'followers' drawn from a pool of group 'D' employees) to police officials of the rank of deputy superintendent of police and above. These officers can also hire private individuals.

Karnataka state police officials have been allotted 373 orderlies. A similar number of private individuals can be hired as per ranks and designations of officers. Accordingly, the total number of orderlies will come to 746 — 373 followers and 373 private individuals.

As many as six orderlies are given to the state police chief (director general and inspector general of police), while three orderlies are given to the director general of police and additional director general of police, two to inspector general of police, and one superintendent of police and others.

Other than DG&IGP, all above-mentioned officers can hire private individuals, equalling the number of orderlies (followers) appointed by the govt, according to director general and inspector general of police MA Saleem.

Till 2016, police constables and head constables attached to City Armed Reserve, District Armed Reserve and Karnataka State Reserve Police worked as orderlies. However, they were replaced by followers.

Also, the new govt order has increased the remuneration allowed to private individuals by more than 150%.

**Began in British Raj**

- Personal assistants to military officers in 18th-century British Army, responsible for caring for horses ('batmen'). Later, they offered medical support roles in hospitals. They provided physical labour: Transporting patients, assisting in surgeries and maintaining equipment. With British rule in India, orderly system introduced in police dept in late 19th century
- Constables appointed orderlies to assist senior officers for personal security. They also kept officers' uniforms wrinkle-free; attended phone calls. Under Rule 862A of Karnataka Police Manual, constables from Armed Reserve Force allowed to assist senior officers in their work
- Over time, trained constables made to do household chores such as cooking, bringing vegetables, gardening and dropping children to school

# Notices to Centre, Google in Lankan SC judge case

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka high court Thursday ordered notices to the Union ministry of electronics and Google India in response to a petition filed by Justice AHMD Nawaz, a sitting judge of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court.

The petitioner prayed for the removal of alleged defamatory content pertaining to him, as well as the URLs of news reports published against him.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum posted the petition to March 16 for further consideration.

The petitioner was told to issue a personal notice via email to the websites 'Colombo Telegraph' and 'Lankaenews', the other respondents in his petition.

According to the petitioner, the defamatory articles against him, published in 2015 and 2020, traversed far beyond the shores of Sri Lanka and inflicted grievous damage upon his international reputation as a jurist.

# *Stroke of alarm: Rising cases among youths spark concern*

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**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- **B** – Sudden loss of balance
- **E** – (Eyes) Loss of vision
- **F** – Face drooping
- **A** – Weakness or numbness in one arm
- **S** – Slurred speech
- **T** – (Time) Seek help immediately

**Bengaluru:** In a worrying finding, a recent study published in the International Journal of Stroke has revealed that 13.8% of stroke cases in India occur in individuals below the age of 45. The research draws on data from the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Stroke Registry Programme, the largest stroke registry in the country.

The study identified hypertension, smokeless tobacco use and diabetes as the key modifiable risk factors driving strokes among younger individuals. It noted that nearly 50% of patients presented with moderate stroke severity.

According to doctors **TOI** spoke to, Bengaluru mirrors the national trend. They estimate that at least 20% of acute stroke cases they treat each month involve young patients, underscoring a growing and concerning pattern.

Doctors say even paediatric strokes are no longer rare. "Just a couple of days ago, a 12-year-old boy admitted under my care suffered a stroke. He was playing cricket, came home, and a few hours later, his parents noticed he had weakness on the right side. Upon evaluation, we found he had a stroke with narrowing of the brain blood vessels," said Dr BK Madhusudhan, lead consultant, neurology, Aster RV Hospital.

He added that causes in younger patients are very different from the elderly. "Heart rhythm abnormalities, genetic disorders, blood clotting issues, and autoimmune conditions like lupus or SLE play a role. We also saw strokes from viral cerebral arteritis, where blood vessel inflammation occurs, particularly during infections in children."

Doctors noted that the early onset of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension significantly raises stroke risk among younger individuals, the study found. They added that excessive consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances and tobacco further compound the danger.

**Prevention must be policy priority, say doctors**

Neurologists noted that younger patients may experience greater impact compared to older patients.

"Elderly patients develop collaterals in the brain because of long-standing diabetes, hypertension and other risk factors. The brain blood vessels become stiffer over time and the brain starts remodelling, recruiting smaller new vessels, leading to collateral formation. In young patients, the brain is full; there is no brain atrophy. So even if there is a stroke of moderate size, the brain swelling will be significant compared to elderly patients and thus a higher impact. The socioeconomic damage is greater too as these are people in their prime careers, unlike those over 60 who are often retired with settled families," said Dr Suryanarayana Sharma PM, senior consultant neurologist and stroke specialist, academic adviser, department of neurology, Apollo Hospitals, Bannerghatta Road.

Neurologists called for young strokes to be considered a public health emergency and stressed that prevention must become a policy priority. They suggested that hypertension screening should begin as early as school and college levels, stroke awareness and the BEFAST protocol should be included in textbooks, families with a history of aneurysms should undergo screening, and infrastructure must be strengthened to ensure more hospitals are stroke-ready.

# Anti-drug drive at colleges uncovers 31 student users

## 1.2k Samples Collected, 585 Tested

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### Ban mooted on sale of beverages

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has recommended a ban on beverages with up to 15% alcohol content and high sugar. In a letter to the commissioner of the department of drug control, KSCPCR flagged ready-to-drink cocktails, called Buzzballz, being sold near schools and colleges. The rights body sought a ban on the drink and directed the department to submit an action-taken report within five days. "Any beverage having up to 15% alcohol content and high sugar will have an adverse effect on the health of children. They will get addicted without knowing it," the commission stated.

**Bengaluru:** A special anti-drug drive among college students in west Bengaluru has revealed worrying results, with 31 students testing positive for narcotics. Police had collected urine and blood samples from around 1,200 students from private colleges in and around Vijayanagar and randomly tested 585 of them. Now, counselling will be held for those students, and one police officer will be in touch with them for at least three years to ensure recovery from addiction.

"This was not a raid but a special drive, carried out with the consent of college authorities. We approached 21 colleges seeking their cooperation. However, only six consented. Also, the management of two boys' hostels agreed. Then, we held another meeting with doctors from private hospitals who were willing to volunteer for the drive. Finally, we carried it out," C Vamshi Krishna, joint commissioner of police (west), told **TOI**.

"We subjected students in year 2 and above to the tests. We didn't include girls in the drive. We promised the college authorities and the students that their names and other details would be kept confidential," an officer who was part of the drive said.

Deputy commissioner of police (west) Yatish N said the cops would trace the peddlers who supplied drugs to the students. "First, we will take the students and their parents into confidence. The students will be subjected to in-depth counselling by professionals. With the help of the same student, we will get to the peddler and others who are in this trade," he said.

Another senior police officer said most of the students who tested positive for drugs were from other states. "They live either in hostels or PG accommodation. Since there was no one to monitor them, they easily became prey to peddlers," he said.

Police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told **TOI** they will extend the special drive to other colleges.

"At crime review meetings, we've discussed at length the ways to counter the drug menace. We discovered that the younger generation, in particular students, were falling prey to the drug racket. Yes, social media also plays a vital role in luring them. Many students say they tried drugs out of curiosity first and then became addicts. If we succeed in making the younger generation understand the ill effects of drugs, we can say that half the war against drugs is won," he said.

# WEEDING ITS WAY TO B'LURU

## Bangkok Route Dominates Drug Seizures At KIA

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**Bengaluru:** Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as a major interception point for narcotics trafficking, with customs officials seizing 858kg of hydroponic weed and registering 117 cases under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the current financial year up to Feb 13. A majority of cases were linked to flights originating from Bangkok, according to data accessed by **TOI**.

Of the total cases, 114 involved hydroponic weed (ganja), leading to 133 arrests. Most of the seizures were in the intermediate quantity category (1kg to 20kg), indicating repeated mid-sized consignments rather than isolated bulk smuggling attempts.

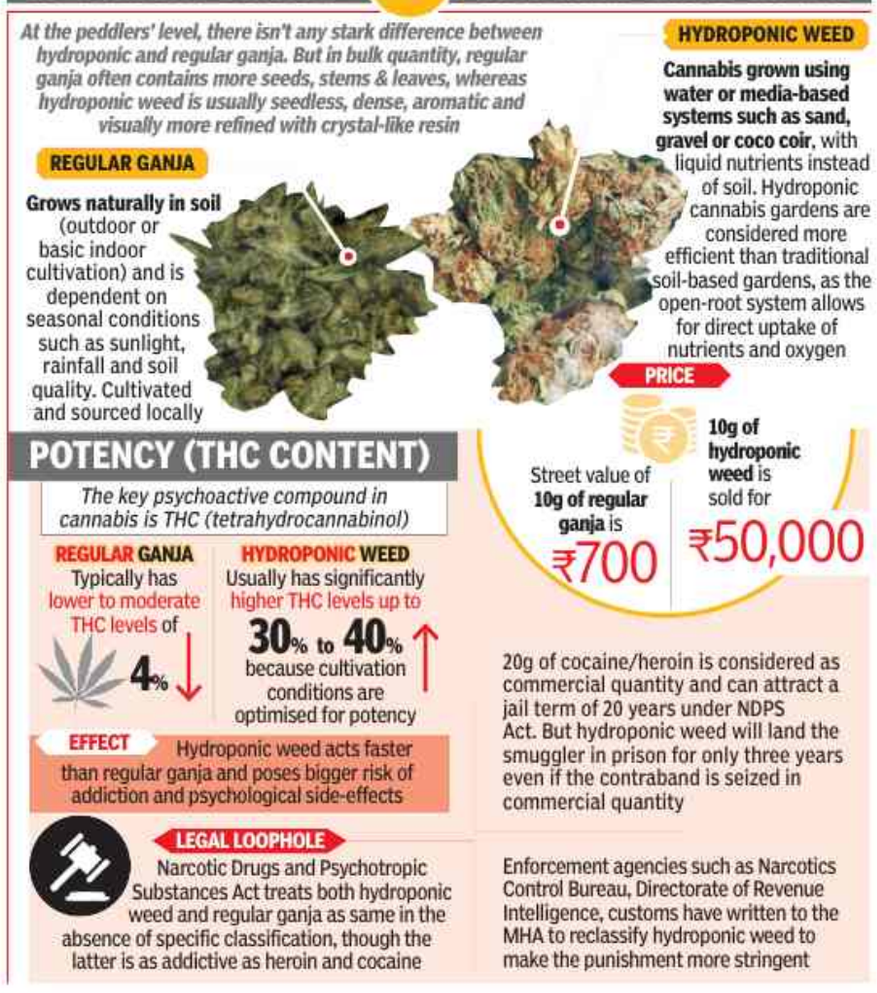
Six commercial-quantity seizures exceeded 20kg, including the largest — 92.8kg — seized on Oct 14 from a Sri Lankan family of four. Among the accused, two were Thai nationals and four Sri Lankan; the rest were Indian nationals.

Intermediate-quantity cases often led to quick bail, enabling repeat offences, said a customs official on the condition of anonymity. "The ganja is stored in 0.5kg airtight packets and kept concealed, which makes it difficult even for the dog squad to identify it," the official added.

Sources in the customs department said almost all flights involved in these cases originated from Bangkok, barring a few transit routes through the Gulf countries and Sri Lanka. "Investigators believe traffickers may be exploiting the popularity of Bangkok-Bengaluru travel corridor to mask courier movement," a source elaborated. Alongside cannabis, the authorities intercepted two significant cocaine consignments of 9.4kg, including 4.4kg of 'black cocaine'— a chemically treated form designed to evade standard detection methods. Officials noted that concealment techniques for narcotics have become increasingly sophisticated, often disguised within consumable goods or chemically altered.

In another case, a 40-year-old woman passenger arriving from Bangkok was arrested with 1.7kg of hashish, underscoring continued attempts to diversify cannabis-based smuggling.

Overall, the data points to a clear pattern: frequent mid-volume cannabis consignments routed primarily through Bangkok, along with occasional high-value cocaine trafficking attempts using advanced concealment. With Bengaluru's growing international connectivity and expanding urban consumer base, enforcement agencies are intensifying profiling, surveillance, and intelligence coordination efforts to curb narcotics inflow.


REGULAR GANJA VS HYDROPONIC WEED
At the peddlers' level, there isn't any stark difference between hydroponic and regular ganja. But in bulk quantity, regular ganja often contains more seeds, stems & leaves, whereas hydroponic weed is usually seedless, dense, aromatic and visually more refined with crystal-like resin
REGULAR GANJA
Grows naturally in soil (outdoor or basic indoor cultivation) and is dependent on seasonal conditions such as sunlight, rainfall and soil quality. Cultivated and sourced locally
HYDROPONIC WEED
Cannabis grown using water or media-based systems such as sand, gravel or coco coir, with liquid nutrients instead of soil. Hydroponic cannabis gardens are considered more efficient than traditional soil-based gardens, as the open-root system allows for direct uptake of nutrients and oxygen
PRICE
10g of hydroponic weed is sold for ₹50,000
Street value of 10g of regular ganja is ₹700
POTENCY (THC CONTENT)
The key psychoactive compound in cannabis is THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)
REGULAR GANJA
Typically has lower to moderate THC levels of 4%
HYDROPONIC WEED
Usually has significantly higher THC levels up to 30% to 40% because cultivation conditions are optimised for potency
EFFECT
Hydroponic weed acts faster than regular ganja and poses bigger risk of addiction and psychological side-effects
LEGAL LOOPHOLE
Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act treats both hydroponic weed and regular ganja as same in the absence of specific classification, though the latter is as addictive as heroin and cocaine
20g of cocaine/heroin is considered as commercial quantity and can attract a jail term of 20 years under NDPS Act. But hydroponic weed will land the smuggler in prison for only three years even if the contraband is seized in commercial quantity
Enforcement agencies such as Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, customs have written to the MHA to reclassify hydroponic weed to make the punishment more stringent
WEED SMUGGLING IN NUMBERS
Cases booked 114
Persons arrested 133
Quantity seized 858kg
Source: Bengaluru Customs | Data for 2025-26, till Feb 13

# Flyers struggle to come back due to repeated cancellations

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IRAN CRISIS

**Bengaluru**: Passengers trying to return to Bengaluru from Gulf countries are facing days of uncertainty, with repeated flight cancellations and shifting schedules leaving many stranded.

Travellers said even after airlines issued fresh tickets following earlier cancellations, several flights were cancelled again. "We were given another ticket after our first flight was cancelled, but that also got cancelled at the last minute. Every day we are told to wait for updates. There is absolutely no clarity on when we can return to Bengaluru," said Aravind Menon, a passenger stranded in Dubai.

Shilpa Krishnamurthy, an IT employee in Bengaluru, said she is looking for alternative routes like many others to get back home to her family from Dubai. "We are looking at options of travel via Doha, Muscat or Kuwait City because direct flights are getting cancelled again and again. I'm tired of staying in a hotel room."

Passengers departing from Bengaluru also expressed concern over flights operating with heavily restricted passenger loads. "Many of us are worried about travelling right now because the situation keeps changing and we don't know if flights will operate normally. Some flights are operating with only about 50 passengers from Bengaluru to Dubai," said Mohammed Farooq, who planned to travel for business.

Operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continued to be affected Thursday, with 30 flights cancelled (14 arrivals and 16 departures). Despite the disruptions, some services continued to operate with adjustments. Emirates flight EK566 from Dubai arrived in Bengaluru with 358 passengers at 6.35pm, before departing at 8.20pm with 203 passengers as EK567.

### 33 tourists from Ballari fly back home

Thirty-three of the 35 tourists from Ballari district who were stranded in Dubai got back to Bengaluru Thursday.

They had travelled from Ballari to Dubai using the services of a travel agency and were scheduled to fly back to India on Feb 28. However, flight operations were suspended amid the West Asia conflict, leaving the group stranded for four days. But with services resuming, the tourists left Dubai at 10.45pm Wednesday and landed in Kochi, Kerala, before boarding a connecting flight to Bengaluru. They arrived on Thursday morning, where Ballari Rural MLA B Nagendra received them at the airport and welcomed them with bouquets. Of the group, a woman stayed back in Dubai along with her husband over health-related issues. TNN

## Homecoming plans affected ahead of Eid

Times News Network

The Eid-ul-Fitr travel plans of many NRIs from coastal Karnataka are uncertain as the escalating Iran-Israel/US crisis continues to disrupt airspace across West Asia, raising fears of flight delays, rerouting and cancellations.

With Eid expected around March 19 or 20, expatriate families say the issue has heightened anxiety during what is typically the busiest travel period. Travel agents report a slowdown in ticket bookings as travellers wait for clarity on airline schedules and route stability. "Every year I travel to Mangaluru with my family before Eid, but this time our plans may not work out. We may have to celebrate in Saudi Arabia," said a businessman.

Mohammed Ashif, CEO of Expertise Company in Saudi Arabia, said many travellers are postponing trips and waiting for reliable flight availability before confirming bookings. Expatriates in Bahrain and Kuwait are closely tracking advisories, while travel agents say that special flights may be introduced if the disruptions continue.

## IISc Open Day tomorrow, avoid CV Raman Road

**Bengaluru:** Motorists are advised to avoid CV Raman Road Saturday as Indian Institute of Science (IISc) will host its Open Day programme from 9am to 6pm. The event is open to the public, particularly college students.

A large turnout is expected along with 150 to 200 buses, 650 to 700 cars, and 60,000 to 80,000 two-wheelers. Traffic police have advised visitors to use public transport as much as possible to minimise rush. School buses and four-wheelers will have to be parked at Palace Grounds, at Krishna Vihar gate no. 1.

Shuttle buses arranged by IISc will ferry visitors from the parking area to the venue. Two-wheelers should be parked at the IISc Gymkhana ground, traffic police said.

People travelling towards Ballari Road from Yeshwantpur and those heading towards Yeshwantpur from Ballari Road have been requested to avoid CV Raman Road and use alternative routes.

### Traffic restrictions for road-safety event

The transport department, in association with police and the department of youth empowerment and sports, is organising an awareness programme on road safety — 5K Safe-A-Thon — Saturday. The programme will feature a bike rally, cycle rally, walkathon and marathon.

Movement of all vehicles on Kasturba Road will be prohibited from 7am to 10am. The programme will begin and end at Kanteerava Stadium, passing through Siddalingaiah Junction, Queen's Circle, CTO Junction, Police Thimmaiah Junction, in front of Vidhana Soudha, Gopalagowda Circle, KR Circle, Police Corner, Hudson Circle, and Kasturba Road. The no-parking zones are Kasturba Road, Vittal Mallya Road, KG Road, NR Road, Nrupathunga Road, and Seshadri Road. TNN

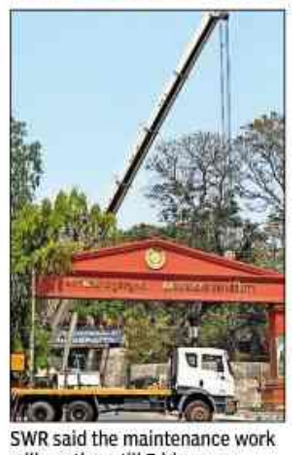
### ALMANAC (6.3.2026)

Kumbha Masa 22 – Shri Vishvavasu Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Shishira Ritu – Tithi: Phalguna Krishna Tritiya h. 17-54 Nakshatra: Hasta h. 9-30 Yoga: Ganda h. 7-06. 16 Ramadan
**Rahu Kalam 10.30am — Noon**
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

# Railway bridge closure on BU rd frustrates motorists

Syed Asif & Anush S | TNN

Pics: Syed Asif



SWR said the maintenance work will continue till Friday noon

**Bengaluru:** Thousands of motorists travelling between Mysuru Road and Outer Ring Road (ORR) through the Bangalore University (BU) campus had a harrowing time Thursday morning as the stretch was shut to place a steel girder at the railway underbridge (RUB).

Motorists, who were caught in traffic snarls, had to take longer routes, triggering anger and frustration. The bridge was closed by the Bengaluru division of South Western Railway (SWR) Wednesday evening.

"This was perhaps the only proper way we could reach home faster. But now, since this route has been closed, we need to book an auto, which is expensive. The distance is also too much," said Ankita, a student of Don Bosco Institute of Technology. Traffic police said vehicles towards the university from Mysuru Road were diverted through a nearby level crossing while those moving towards Mysuru Road were forced to take UCPE Stadium Road.

Narendra Kumar, a resident, said: "Even if the authorities promise to build a flyover, they can't do it because of non-feasibility. There is not much traffic here. On the other hand, if an ROB is built in Kengeri, it will benefit those travelling towards Jnanabharati."

Motorists said they were being stopped from taking a right turn from the level crossing near Indian Statistical Institute, which adds to their inconvenience. With multiple railway crossings within the area being at-level ones, some motorists called for their conversion into ROBs. "There are too many level crossings here. I have seen several instances where vehicles break down in the middle of the road. It affects trains and motorists," a commuter said.

As congestion remains severe, SWR said maintenance work will continue till Friday noon. "This was crucial work for the railways. We regret the inconvenience caused to the public," an official said.

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The main talk will be delivered by Smt. Joyati Kapur, Founder Working President and Sri Shantanu Kapur, Founder Member and Senior Advisor. Smt Joyati Kapur and Sri Shantanu Kapur are the oldest, closest disciples of Venerable Gurudeva Mahamahopadhyaya Yogacharya Dr. Ashoke Kumar Chatterjee. They have been able to glean the most subtle aspects of Kriyayoga through their Kriyayoga sadhana of 40 years and their close proximity to Venerable Gurudeva.

For those interested in Kriyayoga initiation, registration forms can be filled at the venue and the registration fee paid online.

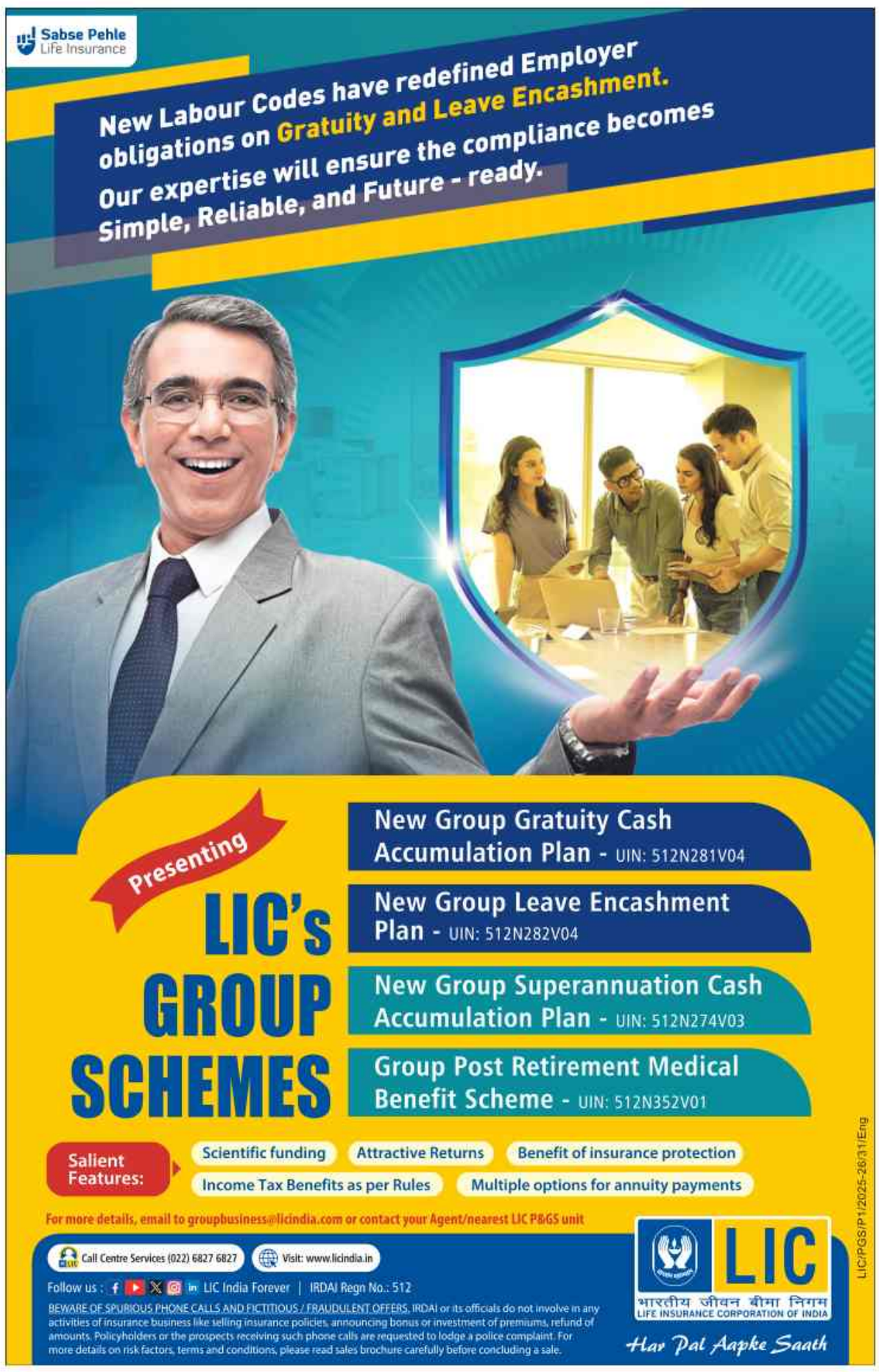
The talks will be followed by a Q&A Session.

*Light refreshments will be served at the venue.*

Date : March 7, 2026
Time : 6 pm to 9 pm
Venue : Banquet Hall, Chancery Hotel, 10/6 Lavelle Road, Bangalore.

Please contact for further details:
9833658167 / 9833883838

Entry is Free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# Two hat-tricks & a hard truth: CM's 17th budget faces fiscal squeeze

Chethan Kumar & BV Shivashankar | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Siddaramaiah has rarely entertained superstitions. Yet his 17th budget will be presented at 10.15am on Friday — 15 minutes before rahu kala, widely regarded as inauspicious.

The finance minister who scripted history in the early 2000s by presenting Karnataka's first revenue surplus budget under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework is now on course for an uncomfortable milestone. If trends hold, he will become the first finance minister since the FRBM era to present three consecutive revenue deficit budgets.

His immediate predecessor had tabled two deficit budgets during the Covid years before returning to a modest surplus of Rs 402 crore in 2023-24. That recovery has since been reversed, with two successive revenue deficit budgets under Siddaramaiah. The current revenue mobilisation pattern offers little indication of a turnaround.

Symbolism aside, the bigger story lies in the numbers. The revenue deficit streak is only one of two hat-tricks in the making. Karnataka enters the new fiscal year under visible strain. Revenue growth has slowed, borrowings are rising and the space to mobilise additional resources is narrowing.

In 2025-26, collections have fallen short of targets. The shortfall is expected to force a downward revision of the year's outlay from nearly Rs 4.1 lakh crore to about Rs 3.95 lakh crore. That would mark the third consecutive year of a reduced outlay compared to the budget estimate.

Despite this pattern, the govt is expected to project a higher outlay for 2026-27 — above Rs 4.1 lakh crore and possibly up to Rs 4.3 lakh crore. The move raises questions about the basis for expanding allocations when past projections have not translated into spending on the ground.

A closer look at expenditure trends shows the imbalance more clearly. Revenue expenditure — including salaries, pensions and interest payments — has largely progressed as planned. Capital expenditure has lagged. By Jan, only around 46% of the 2025-26 capital allocation was used, raising concerns about delays in infrastructure creation and the possibility of a last-minute spending rush.

Borrowings continue to mount. They are expected to cross Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2025-26, pushing total liabilities beyond Rs 7.6 lakh crore. With revenue mobilisation remaining weak, a higher outlay in the coming year would likely translate into additional debt.

The challenge before the govt, therefore, is less about symbolism and more about restoring credibility to its fiscal arithmetic.

## Won't budge on welfare, won't lag in development either, says Rayareddi

Chethan Kumar & BV Shivashankar | TNN

TOI

**Bengaluru**: Ahead of a new fiscal, the govt's focus has shifted to balancing welfare commitments, capital spending and fiscal discipline. In an interview, chief minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser, **Basavaraj Rayareddi**, outlines challenges and priorities for 2026-27. Excerpts:

**With revenue collection under strain, how will you manage capital expenditure?**

■ About Rs 10,000 crore in unspent funds will partly bridge the revenue gap and support capex. The main concern is revenue generation. Though we welcome GST rate rationalisation, the timing has led to a Rs 12,000-13,000 crore shortfall. GST growth may fall from 13-14% to about 6%, with the slowdown adding another Rs 4,000-5,000 crore gap. Pending central dues — Rs 5,003 crore promised in 2023–24, Rs 6,000 crore recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, and Rs 5,394 crore in special grants — have forced a lower 2025–26 outlay. We will present a pro-people budget while increasing capex and protecting productive spending.

**What about burgeoning debt and fiscal deficit?**

■ For 2026–27, the govt is targeting an outlay of at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore, while keeping liabilities within 25% of GSDP under the FRBM framework. The fiscal deficit will be capped at 3% of GSDP. Fiscal discipline would be maintained alongside welfare spending. In contrast, the Centre has borrowed over Rs 17.2 lakh crore, with total liabilities at around 56% of GDP, and reduced capital expenditure by Rs 1.4 lakh crore.

**Is the 16th Finance Commission award a relief?**

■ It is encouraging but not satisfactory. We expect about Rs 9,000 crore more next year. However, we had sought a 5% devolution share, which would have meant nearly Rs 25,000 crore more.

**How will non-tax revenue be raised?**

■ Based on directions of the Supreme Court, the state expects Rs 4,000–5,000 crore from mining levies. Mining revenue has stagnated at Rs 9,000 crore. A separate mines department has been created, and counselling-based transfers are being considered in the commercial taxes department, which contributes nearly 65% of tax revenue.

**What are the development priorities?**

■ The Upper Krishna Project-III will be prioritised, with Rs 25,000 crore proposed this year as part of a Rs 75,000 crore plan. We have urged the Centre to grant it national project status. The budget will also provide for 8,000 KPS-model schools, road expansion, and utilisation of Rs 5,000 crore cleared by the Asian Development Bank, with focus on agriculture, welfare and jobs.

**Will the guarantee schemes be altered?**

■ The govt spends Rs 1.2 lakh crore on subsidies, including Rs 52,000 crore on the guarantees and Rs 25,000 crore for free power to 36 lakh pump sets. It also allocates Rs 10,000 crore for midday meals and Rs 6,000 crore in interest-free farm loans through NABARD There is no question of rolling back the guarantees.

## 8,125sqft SIDDARAMAIAH PORTRAIT UNVEILED IN MYSURU

SR Madhusudhan

**HOMETOWN TRIBUTE:** The picture, near the north gate of Mysuru Palace, was a tribute to Siddaramaiah for presenting the most budgets in the state's history. He is also the longest serving CM of Karnataka

On the eve of his 17th state budget, a huge portrait of CM Siddaramaiah was unveiled in Mysuru, his hometown. Created by artists on the premises of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple, near the north gate of the Mysuru Palace, the 8,125sqft picture shows Siddaramaiah holding a budget briefcase against a map of Karnataka in the colours of the Kannada flag. With Friday's presentation, Siddaramaiah will be one short of the record set by former Gujarat finance minister and ex-governor Vajubhai Vala, who presented 18 state budgets. But Siddaramaiah holds the record for presenting the highest number of budgets in Karnataka's history.

## Wine merchants threaten strike

Seeking reforms within the industry, wine merchants said Thursday they would halt all sales on March 14. Led by Federation of Wine Merchants' Associations of Karnataka, some 3,000 merchants gathered at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, to press for their demands, which include a guaranteed 20% profit margin on retail sales and a significant reduction in recently hiked licence fees and additional excise duties. They also demanded permission for alcohol consumption in wine shops, most of which have a CL-2 licence that only allows selling Indian Made Foreign Liquor and bottled beer for off-premises consumption. Merchants also demanded a shift in sale timings — from 9am to midnight — like hotels. "The state is losing over Rs 1,000 crore revenue due to the illegal sale of military-canteen liquor, duty-free alcohol, and illicit spirits from Goa, which officials have failed to curb," the association claimed. Cancellation of the planned auction process for excise licences was another crucial demand.

Muthu P

**LACKING SPIRIT:** Excise minister RB Timmapur met with wine merchants at Freedom Park in Bengaluru and promised to act on their demands, but protesters said the minister's assurance was "ambiguous" and their protests would continue

## Budget live on LED screens at bus stands

For the first time, the presentation of the state budget will be telecast live on LED screen at bus stands across Karnataka Friday to ensure a wider audience. A press release from the department of information and public relations said special arrangements have been made at 230 bus stands to broadcast the budget live. The broadcast will include the CM's press conference after the budget.

## BJP criticises CM on loans, taxes

Opposition BJP criticised chief minister Siddaramaiah ahead of presentation of the state budget, alleging heavy borrowings and fresh taxes. Leader of opposition R Ashoka claimed the govt is expected to borrow around Rs 1.1 lakh crore and may impose additional taxes. He said the budget would offer nothing new and would focus on criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and repeated references to the five guarantee schemes. Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, legislative council LoP, alleged the govt was not fulfilling promises and claimed misuse of SC-ST funds under the guarantee schemes.

## SHORT TAKES

### I will attend DKS' dinner: Ponanna

AS Ponanna, Virajpet MLA and legal adviser to chief minister Siddaramaiah, clarified that he will attend a dinner hosted by deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar to mark the milestone of serving six years as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president. Ponanna said there is nothing wrong in organising a dinner to celebrate the achievement. "If Shivakumar celebrates his milestone, every Congressman, even I, will participate," he said, dismissing reports that he may skip the event.

TOI

AT ODDS: GM Siddeshwar (right) with Radha Mohandas Agarwal

### Siddeshwar, Harish skip BJP meet

The rift in BJP was at the fore when former Union minister GM Siddeshwar and a faction led by Harihar legislator BP Harish were absent at a meeting in Davanagere, called to prepare for the Davangere South assembly byelection. After holding separate meetings with rival groups, BJP organised a felicitation ceremony for workers and organisers of the constituency. At the event, BJP state in-charge Radha Mohandas Agarwal made his annoyance known, saying, "I wasted a lot of time here; next time, I will visit booths." Agarwal and state BJP president BY Vijayendra reached Davanagere early Thursday and met with a faction left by former ministers MP Renukacharya and SA Ravindranath at a private resort. Later, they met for over an hour with Siddeshwar and Harish.

### Will fight for farmers' issues till last breath: Yediyurappa

Former CM BS Yediyurappa, 85, said he will continue to fight for people, especially farmers, as long as he is fit. During a visit to Begur for the Siddamallikarjunaswamy Aradhana Mahotsava in Mysuru, he said BJP will continue its fight against the Congress govt. He said his 60-year political career was devoted to farmers' welfare and the state's development. He said farmers are the backbone of the nation and urged govts to prioritise their issues. He said Bhagyalakshmi scheme which he launched benefited girl children and recalled releasing Rs 1.7 crore for the development of Shila Mutt near Gundlupet.

## Decision on SC internal reservation deferred

Times News Network

**Bengaluru**: The cabinet Thursday deferred a decision on the vexed issue of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes, with chief minister Siddaramaiah and his ministers reaching no conclusion after lengthy discussions.

**CABINET MEETING**

A decision will be taken at another meeting after opinions are gathered from all sides. The timing of the next meeting will be decided by the CM.

HK Patil, law and parliamentary affairs minister, said the govt remained committed to implementing internal reservation. He clarified that the ongoing recruitment process to fill 56,432 vacancies will continue without any change for now and that the cabinet would deliberate again before providing clarity on the issue.

"There is no hurdle to call for applications," said Patil.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah met with the Advocate General and Justice Nagamohan Das, who headed a one-man commission, to examine the options available to the govt to implement internal reservation within the existing 15% quota for Scheduled Castes.

Facing immense pressure to fill more than two lakh vacancies, the govt had decided to go ahead with recruitment adhering to 50% cap on overall reservation. This meant the enhanced quota of 17% for SCs and STs was put on hold although departments were told to set aside an additional 2% and 4% jobs respectively for the two communities. This would kick in if the high court allowed reservation to go up to 17% and beyond the overall 50% cap decreed by the Supreme Court. However, some ministers including KH Muniyappa and RB Timmapur, had insisted the govt ensure reservation within the existing 15% as well.

Separately, the cabinet also reviewed the health department's proposal to invoke the Essential Services Management Act (ESMA) against health professionals — both permanent and contractual staff — who had threatened to go on strike.

"The cabinet has asked the health minister to hold discussions with health professionals and try and reason with them to resolve the ongoing crisis," said Patil. He said the cabinet had advised the department against invoking ESMA for now.

The cabinet also approved amendments to the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act to enable municipal bodies to charge market rates for advertising boards within their jurisdictions.

"There was an ongoing legal issue on charging market rates," said the law minister.

It also apporved Rs 62 crore to purchase BS VI diesel buses for KSRTC for inter-city operations.

## Engineer refuses to open door for 3 hrs as sleuths come calling

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** An anti-corruption raid in Hassan led to a dramatic standoff Wednesday as a municipal corporation engineer refused to open the gates of his home for more than three hours after anti-corruption officers arrived to search his property.

**ASSETS WORTH ₹6.8 CROORE**

TOI

WHAT'S THE SOURCE?: Assets found during a Lokayukta search at the residence of Singanayakanahalli Raita Seva Sahakara Sangha CEO Shashidhar at Yelahanka in north Bengaluru Thursday

The operation was part of a statewide crackdown by Lokayukta, with simultaneous raids conducted at the homes and offices of nine govt officials across districts, including Bengaluru, Hassan, Mandya, Gadag, Mysuru, Vijayapura and Yadgir.

However, the spotlight quickly shifted to Hassan, where Lokayukta sleuths reached the residence of Sathyanarayana MC, assistant executive engineer with Hassan Mahanagara Palike, around 5:30am. Instead of opening the gates, the engineer allegedly locked himself inside the house and remained silent, triggering tense scenes outside the multi-storey building.

The sleuths noticed a CCTV camera installed on the premises and used it to communicate, repeatedly asking him to open the door. When there was still no response, officers climbed the compound wall and knocked on several doors inside the building, but the house remained shut.

At one point, the team even suspected the engineer might not be inside the house. However, mobile location data showed that his phone was still on the premises, confirming their suspicion that he was avoiding the raid.

The sleuths were reportedly preparing to call a locksmith to force their entry when they contacted his relatives for help. His sister soon arrived at the spot and persuaded Sathyanarayana over the phone to cooperate. After hours of tension, Sathyanarayana finally opened the door, allowing the search to begin.

During the raid, Lokayukta officials reportedly unearthed immovable assets worth about Rs 5.9 crore, including houses, sites and agricultural land. They also found gold, silver and vehicles valued at around Rs 1.4 crore.

Preliminary estimates suggest the assets could amount to Rs 6.8 crore in disproportionate wealth, which is over 200% higher than his known sources of income, officials said, adding that verification of documents and seized materials is still underway.

Raids were conducted at 42 other locations linked to eight additional officials. The disproportionate assets cases included Rs 3.4 crore, linked to Shashidhar R, CEO, Singanayakanahalli Raita Seva Sahakara Sangha, Yelahanka; Rs 1.8 crore related to HC Indresh, associate professor, Veterinary College, Hebbal, and Rs 4.4 crore linked to Vasanth Valappa Naik, chief engineer, K-Ship, PWD, Bengaluru.

### MAHE to set up quantum computing innovation hub

**Bengaluru**: Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) will set up a quantum computing innovation hub on its Bengaluru campus in Sept. Officials said the hub will initially operate with a 25-qubit superconducting quantum computing system housed in a dilution refrigerator. The facility will be designed as an open architecture and technology-agnostic platform, allowing researchers, academic institutions and industry partners to access the infrastructure.

A key focus area will be health-science applications, reflecting the broader strengths of the Manipal group in healthcare and medical research, said VC MD Venkatesh. TNN

### Goods vehicle driver, 28, convicted of accident death

**Bengaluru**: A city court held a 28-year-old driver of a mini-goods vehicle guilty of causing the death of an auto driver in an accident and sentenced him to 3 months' simple imprisonment with a fine of Rs 3,000.

M Rehman Saab was driving back home when his vehicle rear-ended the autorickshaw driven by Yogesh SN, 19, in Nandini Layout around 11.40pm on May 3, 2023. Yogesh and his friend Ningaraju were thrown out of the vehicle, and Yogesh later succumbed to head injuries. Assistant public prosecutor said statements by four eyewitnesses and documents produced by investigating officers helped clinch the conviction. TNN

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OBITUARY
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mammen T. K.
Surely 88 years
Thottumukam, Mavelikara, Chengannur passed away on Thursday 5th March 2026.
Husband of late Kunjumolamma P.M.
Funeral service on Saturday 7th March 2026, 11am at residence, 12 noon at Mar Thoma Church, Pittrode Road and thereafter at Hosur Cemetery, Gate 1 (Sub Gate 1).
Deeply mourned by Koshy, Vasa, Alan, Annie, Shibu, Jishi and Ayush

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# BEO to schools: Find missing class 10 pupils

SruthySusan.Ullas
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Alarmed by the number of students who dropped out in the transition from class 9 to 10 in some of the govt schools in Bengaluru North, the block education officer (BEO) sent notices to the institutions seeking an explanation of where the students went.

For instance, Karnataka Public School (KPS) Hebbal had 171 students in class 9 last year but only 129 registered for class 10 exams this time. This means around 42 students were missing from the classrooms this year. Similarly, nine other schools had a dip in the number of students in class 10, compared with class 9.

BENGALURU NORTH

KPS on Link Road, Seshadripuram, and Govt High School Santhebeedi Yeshwantpur each had 29 fewer students in class 10. The situation was similar at KPS Jalahalli (19 fewer students), Govt High School IISc (16), GHS Palace Gutahalli (15), and GHS Prakash Nagar (13).

The notice sent by Lathamani, BEO North 2, asked the schools to respond, explaining the reason for the decrease in enrolment. Principals must submit the name of the students and the detailed reasons.

**DROPPED OUT**

| School name | No. of missing kids |
|---|---|
| KPS Hebbal | 42 |
| KPS Seshadripuram | 29 |
| Govt High School Santhebeedi | 29 |
| KPS Jalahalli | 19 |
| Govt High School IISc | 16 |
| GHS Palace Guttahalli | 15 |
| GHS Prakash Nagar | 13 |

Source: School education dept

The notice sent by Lathamani, BEO North 2, asked schools to respond with the name of the students and reasons for decrease in enrolment

The department also asked for a copy of the roll of students registered for SSLC exam and those who registered privately. Under the jurisdiction of North 2, there are 11 high schools. While 10 of them showed a dip, one school registered an increase in the number of students. "We noticed a drop in the number of students in these schools, which is very concerning. We therefore asked schools to find out about the missing children and report back to us," Lathamani told **TOI**.

Pramod Sridharamurthy, secretary of the India Literacy Project, said: "The learning levels of children are, in many cases, very low, so children drop out by the time the really serious exams begin." Absenteeism is also a major issue. "In different parts of the state, children stay away from schools for long periods once they are old enough to work. The reasons could range from jatras when children are younger to engaging in seasonal work as they grow older. By the time they come back, they are unable to grasp what happens in classes. And once drop outs begin, it is extremely difficult to get them back," he added. He claimed they had earlier recommended to the department to appoint a separate officer to track such children, instead of asking school heads to do the job, as it demands a lot of work.

According to some officials of the school education department, it cannot be just a case of dropouts; it could also be a case of over-reporting of students. "It is a common practice that numbers of students are exaggerated. But we have no idea what this case could be until we take it case by case," he said.

# Husband stitch becomes an itch for women

## Postpartum Procedure, Mostly Demanded By Men, Not Medically Advised: Docs

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Obstetricians and gynaecologists in Bengaluru say they continue to receive occasional requests for the husband stitch — an extra suture intended to tighten the vaginal opening after childbirth. The demand, they highlight, is largely driven by male partners, raising further debate on equality in a relationship, especially women's autonomy over their bodies.

Dr Priya SP Patil, consultant obstetrician, gynaecologist and laparoscopic surgeon at Altius Hospital in Rajajinagar, receives such requests once or twice a month.

Doctors warn the stitch could lead to complications later. "After a normal delivery, some degree of vaginal laxity is natural. The tightening stitch is not always significantly effective and can lead to pain or discomfort during intercourse," said Dr Nirmala Chandrasekar, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Fortis Hospital, Nagarabhavi.

Doctors say it can lead to dyspareunia (genital pain after or during intercourse), chronic perineal pain, scarring, and long-term sexual dysfunction.

"Moreover, the stitch may not even serve its purpose. It simply creates a tighter entry point," noted Dr Priya.

**WHAT ARE MALE PARTNERS DEMANDING**

Husband stitch is an extra suture added while repairing an episiotomy (or perineal tear) after childbirth, to tighten the vaginal opening intended for sexual pleasure of the male partner. "Tightening should not be done during delivery because the tissues are stretched and it risks over- or under-correction; instead, it should be considered after delivery — typically after about 4–6 weeks or a few months — if symptoms persist and both partners agree," said Dr Shanthala.

TIMES Special

**The procedure can lead to dyspareunia (genital pain after or during intercourse), chronic perineal pain, scarring and long-term sexual dysfunction**

Complications include incorrect placement, pain, infection and over-tightening. Outcomes depend heavily on the clinician's skill.

"Medically, it is not a necessary or routinely warranted procedure; it is elective/personalised. However, I may consider it if a patient is anxious about post-birth changes, but only after discussing pros and cons
**Dr Sapna Lulla** | LEAD CONSULTANT, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, ASTER CMI HOSPITAL

"The husband stitch is not recommended, and the consequences are explained to the women and their families. Counselling for such scenarios and gender equality training are given for post-graduate students as part of their curriculum
**Dr Anitha GS** | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF OBG, VANI VILAS HOSPITAL

"We must not discourage normal vaginal delivery out of fear of laxity. Unless there is a clear obstetric indication, natural childbirth should always be encouraged
**Dr Nirmala Chandrasekar** | CONSULTANT, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, FORTIS HOSPITAL, NAGARABHAVI

**Experts recommend non-surgical measures**

Consent of both the wife and the husband is vital to any such intervention, Dr Shanthala Thuppanna, senior consultant and HOD, gynaecology, Sakra World Hospital, pointed out.

Instead, doctors recommend non-surgical measures. "Pelvic floor strengthening through Kegel exercises can help restore muscle tone over time. Laser treatments and other procedures are available, but none are guaranteed solutions," said Dr Nirmala.

Antenatal pelvic floor exercises using a birthing ball, perineal massage and maintaining good perineal tone can help patients avoid the need for the extra stitch, said Dr Sapna Lulla of Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru.

She further added that "perineal massage technique (self/partner/doula), typically starting around the period of 36 weeks, using lubricant and gentle stretching of the tissue between the vagina and anus, can help improve elasticity."

## Illegal advertisers to be booked

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to file criminal cases against individuals and agencies installing illegal advertisements across Bengaluru West city corporation limits.

Speaking at a public grievance meeting, Rao said strict action must be taken to curb the growing menace of unauthorised hoardings and posters. He said not only those who install such advertisements but also those who print them must face criminal cases. Rao directed the legal cell to appoint a dedicated officer to initiate criminal proceedings against offenders. TNN

# Ex-serviceman, 10 aspirants duped of ₹55L

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru**: A retired army serviceman who attempted to secure jobs for his brother-in-law and nine other aspirants in the army has been cheated of Rs 55.7 lakh in a fake recruitment racket.

The complainant, Basavaraju Erappa Bhavi from Belagavi, approached Cottonpet police saying Rajendra Shankarappa and his associates cheated them by issuing fake appointment orders and collecting huge sums of money.

Basavaraju served in the army for 28 years and retired about three years ago. His brother-in-law, Balappa, who works as a security guard at Belagavi airport, introduced him to Prakash Marihal, who claimed to be a former serviceman. Prakash allegedly claimed he could secure direct recruitment in the army for Balappa in return for Rs 6 lakh.

Though Basavaraju initially expressed doubts, he was persuaded after being told about a "serving" army personnel named Rajendra Shankarappa from KGF.

FRAUDULENT ARMY RECRUITMENT

In Oct 2024, Prakash informed Basavaraju that recruitment was under way for vacant posts in 110 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) of the Madras Regiment in Coimbatore. Basavaraju later met Rajendra near the 110 TA unit, where he claimed to be working as a clerk.

Rajendra allegedly told him that vacancies were being filled in 110 TA and ASC Centre Group C posts. He reportedly said candidates who passed a physical test would have to pay Rs 5 lakh, while those who failed would have to pay Rs 6 lakh, with an advance of Rs 30,000. Balappa allegedly failed the physical test conducted by Rajendra but was assured of an employment later.

In Nov 2024, Rajendra allegedly visited Belagavi and met nine more candidates introduced by Basavaraju, promising them jobs for Rs 8 lakh each. A part payment was made in multiple transactions between Oct 2024 and Feb 2025 after assurance that they can pay the rest upon joining. The accused reportedly sent "call orders" via email. On April 11, 2025, Basavaraju and the 10 aspirants travelled to Coimbatore believing they would join duty at 110 TA unit. Rajendra allegedly asked them to wait at the main gate, went inside and disappeared. On inquiry, officials informed them that no such recruitment drive was under way and that the documents were fake.

The distressed aspirants later confronted Basavaraju, allegedly threatening to end their lives. Basavaraju said he sold one acre of land and 100 grams of gold to repay them. A case has been registered and further investigation is under way.

# Sanitary cleaner nabbed for taking ₹10k bribe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru**: Lokayukta police Thursday arrested a sanitary dafedar (cleaner) attached to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for accepting Rs 10,000-bribe from an electrical contractor.

The accused, M Nagaraj, 39, is posted at the Kaval Byrasandra office of Bengaluru North city corporation.

The complainant, Abdul Rehman, 49, a resident of RT Nagar, had taken up a contract from an apartment to shift a transformer in Kaval Byrasandra. On Feb 26, he used a chipping machine to dig a road as part of the work to remove the transformer.

According to police, Nagaraj allegedly seized the chipping machine from the work site without authorisation. He initially threatened to book a case against Rehman and impose a fine through the corporation. Later, he allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000, promising not to initiate any case and to return the seized machine.

Rehman reportedly paid Rs 10,000 and approached Lokayukta police when Nagaraj began demanding the remaining Rs 10,000.

Acting on the complaint, a team led by deputy superintendent of police (DySP) Mallikarjun CS laid a trap and caught Nagaraj while accepting the cash.

## CORPORATE BUZZ

www.toi.in/psu

# 'BDA seeks to evolve into a partner working with the people'

*Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) chairman, **N A Haris** speaks on efforts that are giving the Authority quick feet coupled with transparency and public participation.*

**1. What is the single biggest challenge BDA faces with the public?**

• Honestly, the biggest hurdle is the trust gap. Bengaluru has been taking shape over many decades, and that history comes with legacy baggage like disputes and legal tangles.

People today expect and deserve quick results and resolutions. However, BDA must operate within the strict lines of the law. I am doing my best to strike that balance: make sure we are fast and transparent without cutting legal corners. My focus has been to phase out 'informal follow-ups' and putting everything into a digital system where you can actually see the progress for yourself.

**2. Which new initiatives are actually speeding things up for the public?**

• Old stacks of paper and file to a digital-first model. BDA receives over 250 requests every single day. To manage that volume, we built the Unified Tapal System, so every receipt is tracked the moment it hits the desk.

We are digitizing entire histories so nothing gets lost in archives. With our e-Office setup, file movement is transparent and timed. Whatever the time of your question, our 24/7 helpline answers you. The weekly Open Houses sees department heads settling issues on the spot. Even our allotments are now handled by automated software—we recently assigned 784 sites in minutes overcoming human intervention or bias fears. Plus, I am live-streaming our meetings so you can watch the decision-making process as it happens.

**3. How is the Open House grievance forum actually going?**

• It has evolved into a very structured, "results-driven" ecosystem. I chair these meetings every week with all my department heads present so we can make coordinated decisions right then and there. We have cleared cases that were stuck for years.

To keep it fair, we share live links and case briefs in advance so everyone knows the agenda. You don't even have to be in Bengaluru to participate; we use video conferencing for citizens living elsewhere. Since every case is tied back to our digital tracking, the accountability doesn't end when the meeting does. The rising participation levels are a great testament to the public's growing confidence in the system.

**4. What is still slowing down the Open House grievance redressal rate?**

• One loves to resolve everything instantly, but in reality some things just take time. When cases involve court stays, complex title disputes, or gaps in decades old paperwork, inter agency paperwork, an immediate fix simply isn't possible. However, I have ensured that even when these bottlenecks hit, our digital systems keep the case on our radar. Someone is always held accountable for moving it forward the moment the legal path clears.

**5. Can people expect new processes where the Open House hasn't solved their issue?**

• Definitely. We are moving toward system-driven governance, meaning your resolution shouldn't depend on which officer you talk to. By institutionalizing escalation mechanisms and digital monitoring, we are making transparency the default setting. We are also bringing citizens in as stakeholders during the planning phase of projects. Our goal is to fix the system itself, stopping recurring problems at the source before they ever become grievances.

**6. As BDA turns 50, what's the 'new look' for citizens?**

• The 50-year milestone is seeing BDA moving into a total digital governance structure. You can look forward to round-the-clock access through our online systems and a level of transparency you haven't seen before—with live-streamed proceedings and public disclosure of case briefs. We are making our allotment systems tech-based to ensure fairness and opening the doors for direct citizen participation in project reviews. Essentially, my aim is seeing BDA evolve into a partner working with the people of Bengaluru, not just an authority sitting above them.

## Strengthening Karnataka's Rail scape: New Infrastructure in Tumakuru

MoS Railways, V Somanna recently inaugurated a pedestrian subway at Shettihalli and laid the foundation for a Foot Over Bridge at Kyatsandra. Highlighting the rapid development of Tumakuru, the Minister emphasized that railway facilities are being upgraded to meet growing passenger demands.

Across Karnataka, railway projects worth approximately ₹52,000 crore are underway, with a strategic focus on Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) to eliminate level crossings and improve safety. In the Bengaluru City–Sampige Road section alone, 25 crossings are being addressed with works valued at ₹1,500 crore.

Progress is also steady on the Tumakuru–Davanagere and Tumakuru–Rayadurga lines, with Chitradurga–Davanagere services expected to commence shortly. During his visit, the Minister inspected several ongoing ROB and RUB projects, including those at Mallasandra, Batwadi, and Mydala Gates, totalling over ₹120 crore in local infrastructure investment.

## ICAR-NDRI conducts industry meet 2026

The ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute (ICAR-NDRI), Southern Regional Station (SRS), Bengaluru, recently organized their Institute–Industry Meet 2026.

Speaking at the meet, Dr Dheer Singh, Director, ICAR-NDRI, reiterated the institute's commitment to transferring innovative dairy technologies to industry partners and ensuring their practical implementation for national dairy advancement. Dr Arindam Dhali, Head of Station, ICAR-NDRI SRS, Bengaluru welcomed the attendees, over 70 participants from 30 industries, milk unions and start-ups such as Cavinkare, Godrej, MTR, KMF, Doddla Dairy, Stellapps etc.

The meet showcased cutting-edge dairy and animal production technologies, focusing on quality, safety, and innovation. Through panel discussions and an open house, scientists and industry leaders explored collaborative research, consultancy, and technology transfer to drive sector growth.

The programme concluded with one-to-one discussions between industry representatives and institute scientists to facilitate adoption of NDRI technologies by dairy industries.

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KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
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e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

| Sl. No | Tender No. | Description | Online Pre-Bid Meeting | Last date of Online submission |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | T586/2026 | Dental Laser, Automated Tissue Processor (Twin Basket), Microdebrider for ENT, Ergometer, Neonatal Resectoscope with Accessories, High Frequency Neonate Ventilator, Active Passive Exercise System for upper and lower Extremity, Sperm Fuge | 27.03.2026 11.00am | 17.04.2026 5.30 pm. |
| 2. | T587/2026 | Drying Cabinet, Nephroscope 19.5Fr, MRI Compatible Basic Vital Monitor, MRI Compatible Ventilator, Stroke bed with weighing Scale, Infusion Pump, Hemodialysis Machine, Pulse Oximeter Wrist, A | 28.03.2026 11.00am | 17.04.2026 5.30 pm. |
| 3. | T588/2026 | Intubating Video Laryngoscope with Mackintosh Blade,Body Box for Plethysmography, Holter Monitor Model C, Binocular stereo Zoom Microscope, Fogging machine, Cycler for performing Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type A, Semi rigid Thoracoscope with Camera, Light Source and Display Unit. | 31.03.2026 11.00am | 18.04.2026 5.30 pm. |
| 4. | T589/2026 | Crash Cart, Dialysis Chair, Instrument Trolley – Various Types, Medicine Trolley, Cleaning and Dressing Table (Procedure Table), Foot Step double, Foot Step Single, Iron cot SS, Fowlers Cot, Semi Fowlers Cot, Linen Trolley, Mayo Stand, Dressing Trolley, Over bed table, Emergency trolley (Trauma Emergency Cart), Examination Table, ICU Cot Model A , ICU Cot Model B , Surgeon mobile swivel stool, | N.A. | 24.03.2026 5.30 pm. |
| 5. | T590/2026 | HDR Brachytherapy with Treatment Planning System, MRI Scanner 1.5 Tesla Normal Bore (Helium Free), Gas Chromatograph System- FID with Accessories ICPMS with accessories, Integrated HPTLC system, Instruments for VATS (Video assisted Thoracic Surgery), Isoelectric Focusing for Newborn Screening, Capillary Zone Electrophoresis, Schiotz Tonometer, Immobilization Shell-5 Point, Automated Field Analyzer (Perimeter), Circulatory Support System, Special Retractors and Instruments for doing Pelvi Acetabular Surgeries, Hand Held Autorefractokeratometer, Horizontal Electrophoresis Apparatus with all accessories, UV Transilluminator, Orbital Atherectomy System, Carbon Monoxide Breath Analyzer, Dental Analyzer, Bottle Warmer for Thawing Milk ELISA - Fully Automated, Retrieval Set for DDLT, Bottle Sealer with foil for Sealing Bottles Exercise Table, Shower Trolley, Micro Needling and Radio Frequency Infra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B, FNAC Chair with Couch, Automated CPR System Model D, Pediatric Bed, Pediatric ICU Cot, Portal Doppler, Air Bed, Transvaginal Uterine Artery Clamp,Refrigerated Centrifuge, OT Light Shadowless Ceiling Mount Double Dome, OT Light Shadow-less Ceiling Mount Single Dome | N.A. | 30.03.2026 5.30 pm. |

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.statebank.kerala.gov.in
Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

| Tender No. | Nature of Work | Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/INC website | Due date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 252613 007544 | Procurement of We: Precipitated Calcium Carbonate - 20% | 09.03.2026 | 23.03.2026 |
| 252613 007551 | Procurement of Cationic Starch (in Jumbo Bags) for Unit- I. | 11.03.2026 | 25.03.2026 |
| 252613 007545 | Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit- I & II. | 27.03.2026 | 10.04.2026 |
| 252613 007560 | Procurement of Sulphur Di Oxide for Unit- I & II | 04.04.2026 | 18.04.2026 |
| 252613 007546 | Procurement of Maize Based Native Starch (in Jumbo Bags) for Unit- I. | 13.04.2026 | 27.04.2026 |
| 252613 007558 | Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit- I. | 05.05.2026 | 19.05.2026 |
| 252613 007547 | Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit- I. | 02.05.2026 | 16.05.2026 |
| 252613 007559 | Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit- I & II. | 05.05.2026 | 19.05.2026 |
| 252613 007549 | Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide for Unit- I & II | 19.05.2026 | 02.06.2026 |
| 252613 007585 | Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine#1, 2&3. | 22.05.2026 | 05.06.2026 |
| 252613 007662 | Procurement of Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC) | 13.03.2026 | 27.03.2026 |
| 252613 007598 | Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime (in Jumbo Bags) for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC). | 25.03.2026 | 13.04.2026 |
| 252613 007533 | Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll, 80 / 90 Microns of various sizes of TNPL Unit- I | 23.03.2026 | 06.04.2026 |
| 252613 007536 | Procurement of 300 GSM Circular Grey Board Disc - 93 CM / 95 CM & 97 CM for Unit- I & II. | 15.04.2026 | 29.04.2026 |
| 252613 007537 | Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 87 CM for Unit- I. | 15.04.2026 | 29.04.2026 |
| 252813 007555 | Procurement of Heat Treated Ply Wood Pallets of various sizes for Unit- I. | 20.04.2026 | 04.05.2026 |
| 252623 004312 | Procurement of Latex - 2 (Pre Coat - SBR Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit- II. | 25.03.2026 | 08.04.2026 |
| 252623 004313 | Procurement of Liquid Non Ferric Alum for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit- II. | 12.05.2026 | 27.05.2026 |
| 252623 004321 | Procurement of Sodium Sulphate (in Jumbo Bags) for SRP of TNPL Unit- II. | 02.05.2026 | 16.05.2026 |
| 252623 004328 | Procurement of 90 GSM Plain Kraft Sheets & Sheets of various sizes (BF:24) for TNPL Unit- II. | 17.03.2026 | 01.04.2026 |
| 252623 004330 | Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll (70 micron) of various sizes for TNPL Unit- II. | 18.04.2026 | 04.05.2026 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit: website : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
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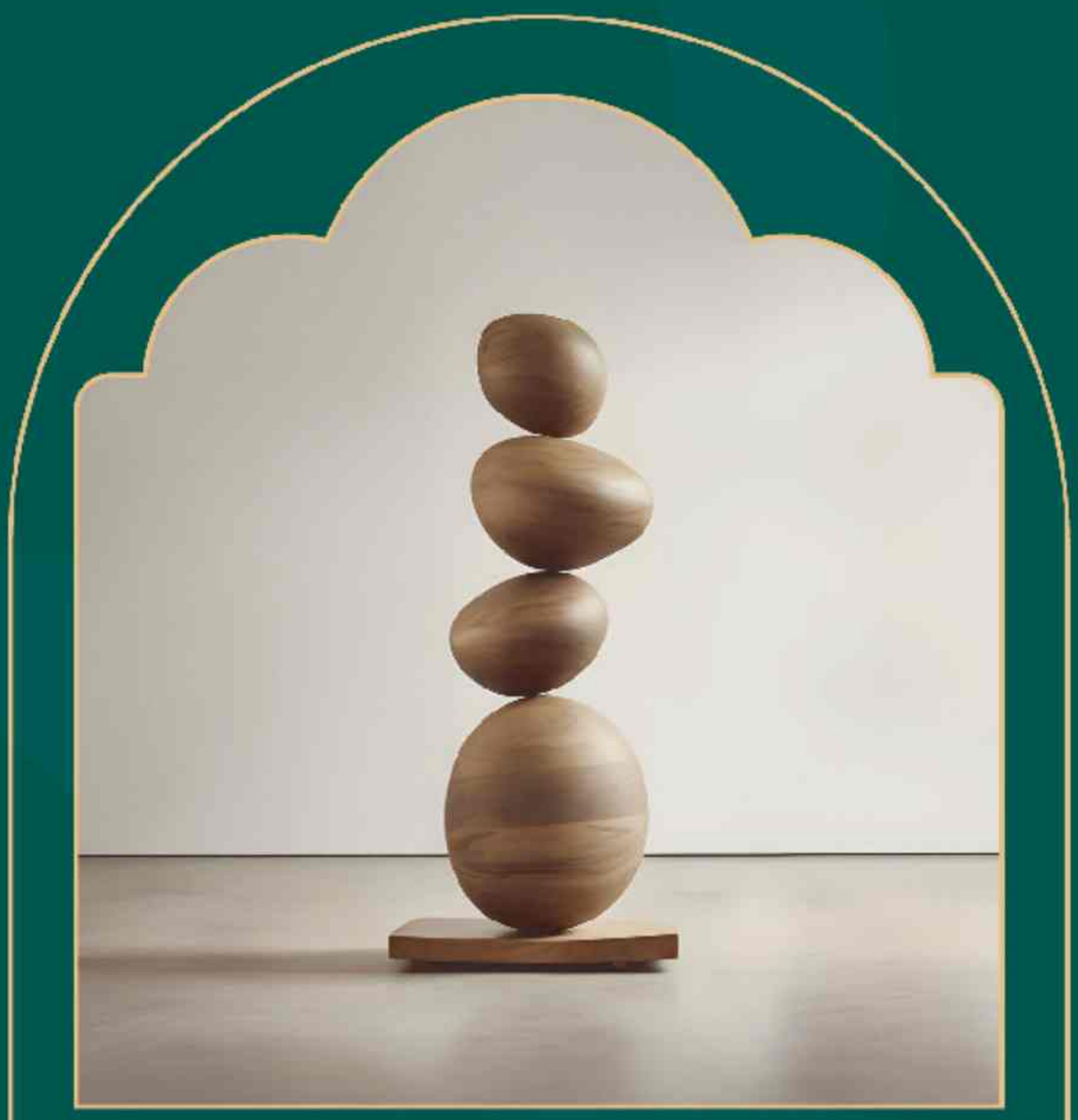

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# TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

J&K YOUTH MUST BECOME JOB CREATORS THROUGH INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE, SAYS CM ABDULLAH

SONOWAL LAYS FOUNDATION FOR INDIA'S FIRST RIVER LIGHTHOUSES ON BANKS OF BRAHMAPUTRA IN ASSAM

**HACK OF THE DAY** — **CREATE YOUR OWN CUSTOM QR CODES**

**WHAT IT SOLVES:** Simplifies sharing complex URLs, Wi-Fi passwords, or digital business cards without typing long strings of text.

**WHAT TO DO:** Use QR code generator tools to create customised QR code for an instant, no-app solution.

**STEPS:**

1. **Prepare your link:** Copy the exact URL or text you want to encode.
2. **Choose a tool:** Open a verified generator like Canva or Adobe Express.
3. **Input data:** Paste your link into the "URL" field.
4. **Customise:** Adjust colors for high contrast (dark code on a light background works best).
5. **Download:** Save as a PNG for digital use or a high-res PDF for printing.

**CAREFUL: Always test your code with your phone camera before printing. Static QR codes cannot be edited once generated; if the URL changes, the code breaks.**

*Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules*

Tip from **neha.saini1**@timesinternet

Scan for more hacks

**STATOISTICS** A slice of life in numbers

## On U'khand roads, a hero isn't too hard to find

Many road accident victims lose their lives after missing the critical 'golden hour' for medical treatment. Uttarakhand has the highest number of good Samaritans honoured under the Rah-Veer scheme for helping victims reach hospitals in time

**Statewise no. of people awarded under Raah-Veer scheme**

Source: Ministry of road transport and highways

# ₹25k for 3rd child: AP unveils India's 1st draft popn policy

Samdani.MN@timesofindia.com

**Vijayawada**: Even as the country gets ready for the 16th edition of the Census next month, Andhra Pradesh's TDP govt has announced what could well be India's first population management policy with myriad incentives to encourage couples to bear more children. This includes a plan to pay Rs 25,000 to couples that give birth to their third child.

Announcing the draft policy in the assembly on Thursday, chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the govt would try to finalise the policy by March for its introduction from April 1. Other incentives include free education for the third child up to the age of 18 years, IVF services at subsidised rates, sanction of special leaves for couples giving birth to a third child, construction of working women hostels and child care centres. With the Census likely to be followed by delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, the southern states have raised concerns over their falling fertility rates leading to a drop in their representation in Parliament. While Andhra Pradesh's total fertility rate (TFR) has been pegged at 1.4, Telangana is at 1.6, Kerala and Karnataka both have a TFR of 1.7, and Tamil Nadu is at 1.82, according to the National Family Health Survey-5. In comparison, India's TFR is between 1.9 and 2.

Naidu pointed out that Andhra's fertility rate came down from 3 in 1993 to 1.4. "The decline poses a threat to economic growth with a fall in the number of young working people and the state will face ageing problems like in Japan, South Korea and Italy," the CM added. Among other incentives, the draft policy proposes 12 months of maternity leave at the birth of the couple's third child or subsequent children, including two months of paternity leave for fathers.

Govt employees with three children approaching retirement will be given 15 days of wellness leave, along with a health fund of Rs 50,000.

**ANDHRA'S BABY BOOM BLUEPRINT**

- **Free education for the third child up to the age of 18 years**, IVF services at subsidised rates
- **Sanction of special leaves for couples giving birth to a third child,** construction of working women hostels and child care centres
- The draft policy proposes **12 months of maternity leave** at the birth of the couple's third child or subsequent children, **including two months of paternity leave for fathers**

# TN bars political activities in private schools amid row

## Cuddalore Event By Seva Bharati Drew Backlash

Ram.Sundaram @timesofindia.com

**'No school premises can be used for programmes or activities by external persons or organisations that are political, ideological, communal or divisive in nature'**

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu govt has barred "political, ideological and communal activities" in private schools through amendments to the Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Rules.

Quoting the amended rules, a govt order issued by the school education department on March 2 said: "No school premises can be used, either during or outside school hours, for programmes, meetings or activities by external persons or organisations that are political, ideological, communal or divisive in nature".

"Land, buildings and facilities of recognised private schools should be used primarily for academic instruction, co-curricular activities, extracurricular programmes, student welfare initiatives and school functions conducted under the authority of the educational agency," said the order.

Similar activities in govt schools were prohibited in 2024 after an event attended by self-styled religious preacher Mahavishnu drew flak.

The amendment comes against the backdrop of a controversy over Sri Saraswathi Vidyalaya, a private school in Cuddalore, permitting a camp by Seva Bharati, an organisation linked to a right-wing outfit, during a holiday in Dec last year. The school was issued a show-cause notice for permitting the event.

The school challenged the action before Madras high court, contending that Rule 9(jj) of the TN Recognised Private Schools (Regulation) Rules, 1974, which bars drills or training by people from outside the institute, does not apply on non-working days. In its petition, the school alleged the notice was issued in the run-up to elections in the interests of the governing party, and that govt machinery was being used "as an instrument of oppression."

Govt authorities, however, said the amendment was brought to introduce a clear rule to prevent disruption of academic spaces by any non-academic activity.

Several CBSE schools in the state regularly host events and camps conducted by outside organisations.

# Ker guv sacks Sanskrit univ VC over student pass row

Times News Network

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Governor and chancellor **Rajendra Arlekar** has removed K K Geethakumari as vice-chancellor-in-charge of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit after she refused to implement his directive against granting a pass to a student who discontinued his studies.

The student, A Kalesh, an SFI activist, had discontinued his undergraduate studies in 2005, but later enrolled in a postgraduate course in 2021 and cleared the exams. The university's examination wing, however, refused to issue the PG certificate as he could not produce documents proving degree qualification. The syndicate then decided to grant him a pass in the degree course as a special case.

The chancellor had asked the vice-chancellor-in-charge and the controller of examinations to submit files related to the syndicate decision, but Geethakumari failed to respond.

Geethakumari, professor in the department of Sanskrit, University of Calicut, was removed from the charge with immediate effect, according to a notification issued by Lok Bhavan on Thursday. Ciza Thomas, vice-chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, will hold the additional charge of Sanskrit University vice-chancellor with immediate effect and exercise the powers and perform the VC's duties and responsibilities until further orders, the notification said. Kalesh had discontinued his studies in 2005 after failing the four-year BFA (mural painting) examination.


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## business

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**MEGHA** Sidagonda Patil 002 SV Lotus 1st floor , PKR Garden, sapthagiri layout Munnekolala, marathahalli, Bangalore 560037, I submit that my father name mentioned in My SSCE Marks card SIDHAGONDA, and my father's name is mentioned in My Aadhar Card and PAN Card i.e. SIDAGONDA ,I Further Declare that Sidhagonda & Sidagonda belong to the same person, and I have Changed my name as Megha Sidhagonda Patil.

I, Vishwanath Kavalu Shivadas S/o Shivadas K T, R/o No-859, Ashiana,13th Main, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my name to VISHWANATH K S for all purposes. I further declare that K S Vishwanath, Vishwanath K S, and Vishwanath K Shivadas (as per my PAN number ACKPV6310J) are names of one and the same person, which is myself. Sworn before Notary on 24-02-2026 at Bengaluru.

I Nagaraj B.V. ( Father) Aged about 45 yrs & Aswini Nagaraj (Mother) aged 37 yrs residing at Flat No.C-04, C Block, NCN Pride Apartment 9th A Cross, Chikka Nanjunda Reddy LayoutAshirvad Colony Horamvu Bangalore-560043 Have changed our Son name Master Nachiketh N Gowda to Master VIHAAN AARADH vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 sworn before notary Y.R.Chandrasekar Bangalore.

I, Shiva Kumaru M S/o G Muniraju R/O No.20, A Type Quarters, Near Old Post Office, Beml Nagar post, KGF, Bangarapet, Kolar, Karnataka - 563115, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As (Rishad S Lihaaz) For All Future Purposes.

I Ganesh Kumar ( Father) Aged about 44 yrs & Mamatha K.R.(Mother) aged 41 yrs residing at Jogalakasti Village, Avani Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar Dist.-563131 Have changed our Son name Master J.G. Vismay Gowda to Master J.G.VISHAL GOWDA vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 sworn before notary B.Nagaraja Mulbagal.

I V Kaviyaa Sri D/O. Y Ved Prakash R/o 37/a 6th A Cross Hennur HBR Layout 4th Block Blore 43 have changed my name to V Kavyaa Sri vide affidavit dated 29-10-2025 at Bangalore.

I, BHOOMI VISHAL RATHOD D/o Vishal Hasmukh Rathod, Residing at Flat No.3124, Sobha Petunia, Veeranna Palya, Nagawara, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to BHOOMI RATHOD vide affidavit dated 07.02.2026 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore and the same shall be known as 'Bhoomi Rathod' for all future purposes.

I Viju Mulanil Kunnathil Baby S/O, Baby Skaria R/o Maangalya Prosper, Block C 1205, No.57/4, 3rd Block, Royal Park Residency Layout, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Anjanapura, Bengaluru – 560062 have changed my name to Viju Baby vide affidavit dated 27-02-2026 at Bengaluru.

I, Nagaraju Gondi S/o Nagamuni Gondi have changed the name of my daughter SARAYU GONDI to SARAYU GN Residing at 1021, BCCHS Layout, Holiday Village Road, Vajarahalli, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore 560062 vide Affidavit dated 17.01.2026 before Notary, Govt of Karnataka.

I, Sushant Kumar, residing at 4024, Sobha Lake Garden, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore-560049 have changed the name of my minor son AGSTYA KUMAR to AGASTYA KUMAR and he shall hereafter be known as AGASTYA KUMAR, as per affidavit dated 24-02-2026.

I, Mahesh Shankar koujalgi, S/o of Shankar Koujalgi residing at GLV, chandapur, Bengaluru-562106 changed my Son name Vihan koujalgi (old name) to Vihan Mahesh koujalgi vide affidavit 05.03.2026, sworn before Notary, Muniswamy.T

I, Jacquline W/o Rajeev C S R/o #81,1st Cross,7th Main, M S Ramaiah Road, V R layout ,Mathikere, B'luru-560054 have changed my name to Vinu Kumari G for all purposes

### LOST & FOUND

I, Chitra Chandradhara have Lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in" Sevaganapalli Village Of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No - 403/1999, Sy No - 143/6, Plot No - 151 and 152 in V.G.P Garden Homes, (Named As V.G.P Bangalore View Part III) (Area Extend 5600 Sqft), Old SRO Hosur (Present SRO Bagalur). While Some Personal Work in Bangalore Near Bharathi Nagar, Case Registered No - 2084538/2026, Sakala No - P0012S260000579, Aff No-IN-KA95478317140121Y, Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address :Chitra Chandradhara, Res/No.773, 2nd Main Road, 1st Cross, Behind Vijaya Bank, K.S.Town, Kengeri, B'lore. Ph : 9886289114

**NOTICE** is given On behalf of CIFCL that Mrs. M. M. Lokeshwari intends to avail Home Loan Facility from Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd against the property of Katha No. 959/05 RDPR No. 152200432061021064, measuring 85.80 sqmtrs situated at Bugathanahalli, Mysore Tq and Dist, Anyone having claim or objection over the said property shall submit the same with within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which such claims shall be treated as null and void. Law Globe 9964255277.

I, Bhavana Prasad Chavan, Have lost my original ICSE (Class X) Statement Of Marks and Pass Certificate, year 2017, Issued by the CISCE. Roll No: 1172016/014. If found Please contact 9880031990.

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# LNG squeeze to hit urea output ahead of kharif season?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** India may face serious disruptions in supply of fertilisers and raw materials in the next kharif season — starting in June — if the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz continues due to the conflict in West Asia, industry insiders said. They added that there is no immediate crisis because it is a lean season.

**BLOCKADE OF STRAIT OF HORMUZ**

Any reduction in supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to urea manufacturers in the coming weeks could impact production of the key soil nutrient ahead of the kharif planting season, a fertiliser company executive said, adding that they are keeping a close watch on developments. Kharif crops account for more than half of India's food grain production, as major crops such as rice, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane are sown during this season.

On average, fertiliser companies produce around 2.5 million tonnes (MT) of soil nutrients per month. If LNG supplies are not normalised, production could be severely affected, industry watchers said, highlighting that production and stocking of fertilisers usually begins from March to ensure smooth distribution.

Now, 60% of LNG used in urea manufacturing is imported from Qatar, and India has a long-term agreement in place. Currently, 30 out of 32 urea manufacturing units use natural gas as feedstock.

Industry watchers also said that apart from supply issues, the blockade of key shipping routes in the Gulf would push up the prices of DAP and urea, which would directly impact the govt's food subsidy expenses. Regarding the current level of stocks, people involved in the sector said that by the end of Feb, urea stocks stood at 5.5 MT compared to 4.9 MT a year ago.

# 'Disobedient litigants weaken rule of law'

▶ Continued from page 1

Delayed filing of appeals should be the exception. But in recent times, the exception has practically evolved to become the rule. Orders passed by courts are not complied with for a long time, and when contempt petitions are filed, belated appeals, with tremendous delay, are preferred," it said.

"We, in no uncertain terms, deprecate these practices. It is felt that by such modus operandi, disobedient litigants act brazenly which has the further effect of bringing down the authority and majesty of courts and the rule of law, interfering in the administration of justice. The same may well, in certain situations, border on criminal contempt," the Supreme Court said.

HCs should deal with such "unscrupulous litigants, more so when they happen to be 'State', within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, or like bodies, with an iron hand", the Supreme Court said, adding, "Unless high courts, so also this court, deal with these aspects firmly, we run the clear risk of erosion of the unflinching faith that the ordinary litigants of this country repose in the judiciary at all levels. It is the solemn duty of all of us manning courts across the hierarchy to ensure that the public faith never wavers."

The bench said justice is tempered with mercy, but courts should take strong exception against dishonest litigants, and it needs to be examined whether the 'liberal' jurisprudence on contempt requires a serious re-look.

The top court also made it clear that contempt proceedings would not be confined only to parties before the court for non-implementation of order, but third parties/non-parties, who are part of the chain in the decision-making process, would also be liable for contempt.

## Punjab-origin YouTuber stabbed to death in Canada

Nancy Grewal (45), a social media influencer and YouTuber of Punjabi origin, was stabbed to death in LaSalle, near Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on March 3, police said. Originally from Ludhiana, Nancy Grewal was a commentator on India-Canada tensions and a critic of Khalistani extremism who took on politicians and religious leaders in her posts. TNN

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# Next govt holds hopes of youth in Nepal: Karki

▶ Continued from page 1

Nearly 80% of Nepal's terrain is mountainous, complicating transport of ballots and election logistics in remote districts. A political analyst told **TOI** a turnout of anything above 60% would be significant, considering that more than 20% of registered voters are estimated to be working overseas. The turnout in the previous election in the country, in 2022, stood at 61.4%.

Interim Prime Minster Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman to hold the post and chosen after young activists organised an online vote following the resignation of KP Sharma Oli, cast her vote early in Kathmandu and told reporters, "my duty is complete". She said her govt had prioritised holding elections peacefully despite political uncertainty.

Sushila Karki said: "We were careful from the beginning to avoid any bloodshed during the election... polls have been conducted in a frugal manner despite doubts that they could be organised. The incoming govt will inherit the expectations of young voters. The next govt holds the hopes of the youth — hope for change and a roadmap for development."

The snap polls followed months of political upheaval triggered by last year's Gen Z protests, which began after a brief social media ban and widened into broader demonstrations demanding accountability, governance reform and employment opportunities. The two-day uprising on Sept 8 and 9, when more than 70 protesters were killed during a crackdown, ultimately forced the collapse of the govt and set the stage for the snap elections.

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## HC cites security issues, declines to allot site for namaz near Mum airport

**Mumbai:** Security is our main concern, said Bombay high court on Thursday while declining to direct govt or Mumbai International Airport Authority (MIAL) to give any specific site to members of a taxi and autorickshaw drivers' union for namaz during Ramzan at or near the city airport.

A report signed by various authorities, including senior police officers, senior security officers from Anti-Terrorism Squad and MIAL, which was submitted by state lawyer Jyoti Chavan, said it was not possible to allow prayers at seven sites, either due to security concerns or problems of space or because development work was underway. The union members cannot claim to have a religious right to offer namaz at any place, especially in the vicinity of an airport where security concerns are high, said a bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and F P Pooniwalla. "We are not experts in security. What we say with the stroke of our pen may have huge repercussions..." Justice Colabawalla said. TNN

## Holi dips turn fatal for 32 people in Guj

**Rajkot/Surat/Ahmedabad:** Dhuleti (Holi) celebrations turned into mourning in various parts of Gujarat on Wednesday, with at least 32 drowning after venturing into rivers, canals and ponds for a dip after festivities. Surat district reported at least 10 deaths, while seven people, including three children, died in Ahmedabad district. Five people lost their lives in Mahisagar district.

In Saurashtra's Amreli district, Sameer Solanki (30), a resident of Baharpara, drowned in the Shetrunji river, while Mayank Karmur (16) drowned in a pond in Devbhumi Dwarka district. A double tragedy struck Bela village in Rajkot district, where two friends, both aged 13, drowned in a river.

In Vadodara, a man drowned in a canal in Sama-Chhani, while another slipped into Narmada canal near Bhimpura village and died. TNN

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking an investigation of the title in relation to certain immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into a transaction in relation to the Schedule Properties, with its present owners, being: **(i) Mr. G. Ramesh Reddy**, son of Gopal Reddy; and **(ii) Mr. K. Amaresh Reddy**, son of Krishna Reddy ('**Owners**'). The Owners of the Schedule Properties have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Properties and have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen)** days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the aforementioned time period, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, interest or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

**SCHEDULE**

**(Description of the Schedule Properties)**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties, situated at S. Bingipura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, detailed in the table herein below:

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| 2. | Survey No. 100/2 | 01 | 03 (excluding 03 Guntas of 'B' Kharab land) | Village Boundary of Hulimangala | Survey No. 100/3 | Road. | Survey No. 101 |
| 3. | Survey No.100/3 | 00 | 20 | Survey No. 100/2 | Survey No. 100/4 | Road | Survey No. 101 |
| 4. | Survey No.100/4 | 00 | 10 | Survey No. 100/3 | Survey No. 100/5 | Road | Survey No. 101 |
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Date: 05.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

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**NOTIFICATION**

**New Delhi, the 3rd March, 2026**

**S.O. 1134(E), Date: 03.03.2026**— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **National Highway 234 in the stretch of land from Km 494.450 to Km 505.540 (Sangondahalli to KNT/AP Border section) in the district of KOLAR in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highway -234, PWD Compound, K.R. Circle, Bangalore 560001** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land **from Km 494.450 to Km 505.540 (Sangondahalli to KNT/AP Border section section) of the National Highway 234 in the district of KOLAR in the state of KARNATAKA.**

| STATE: KARNATAKA | | | DISTRICT: KOLAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sl. No. | Survey / Plot Number | Type of Land | Nature of Land | Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr.) | Area (in Hectare) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Taluk: Mulbagal | | | | | |
| Village: J.Agrahara | | | | | |
| 1 | 93 | Private | Dry | 1010 | 0.101 |
| Village: Mampoora Halli | | | | | |
| 2 | 103 | Private | Dry | 2505 | 0.2505 |
| Village: Thimma Ravuthana Halli | | | | | |
| 3 | 35/3 | Private | Wet | 1010 | 0.101 |
| 4 | Gramatana | Common | Kharab | 350 | 0.035 |
| Village: Chyarakura Halli | | | | | |
| 5 | 50 | Private | Dry | 606 | 0.0606 |
| 6 | Gramatana | Common | Kharab | 1125 | 0.1125 |
| Village: Karavireddy Halli | | | | | |
| 7 | 80 | Common | Dry | 850 | 0.085 |
| | | | | Total | 0.7456 |

[F. No. 12037/48/2016-KNT(P-6)/3A]
**SHAIKH AMINKHAN,** Director

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**Corrigendum-4 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/133/2025 dated: 29.07.2025**

**Item of Work :** RFP for Construction of New Broad-Gauge line including Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication works between Jumlapur Road (Exel) Ch: 75400 and Gurgunta (incl) Ch: 134950 (59.55 km) under GADAG-WADI New line Project on EPC Mode. (Tender Ref. No. JUMLAPUR-GURGUNTA-EPC)

| Approximate Value Rs. | |
|---|---|
| Existing | Modified |
| 964,51,54,197/- | 982,43,51,712/- |
| **Date of Closing** | |
| Existing | Modified |
| 17.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.) | 27.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.) |

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Dy. Chief Engineer/CN/Work Bengaluru Cantt.**

PUB/959/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

For & on behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Chakradharpur, S.E. Railway invites E-Tender under two packet system for the under mentioned work : **Tender Notice Number: MECHCKP-25-26-33; Name of Work :** Onboard cleaning and hygiene service (OBHS) in nominated trains of TATA coaching depot of Chakradharpur Division, S.E. Railway for 02 years; **Tender Value :** ₹ 10,54,59,684.00; **Bid security :** ₹ 6,77,300.00; **Cost of tender form:** ₹10,000.00; **Place of opening of tender:** Office of the Sr. DME/CKP, S.E. Railway; **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 25.03.2026; Tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/bidder must have Class-III digital signature certificate & must be registered under IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **(PR-1263)**


## Veteran journalist HK Dua cremated

**New Delhi:** Family and friends bade a touching adieu to veteran journalist **H K Dua** (88) who was cremated at Lodhi Road crematorium on Thursday. He passed away a day ago after a brief illness.

Dua served as the editor of four big English newspapers — The Times of India, The Indian Express, Hindustan Times and The Tribune — over a career spanning five decades. He later became media adviser to prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H D Deve Gowda, and also served as India's ambassador to Denmark.

Later, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his services to journalism, and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2009. TNN

# India's 'moist heatwaves' getting worse, says study

### 'Rossby Waves' Arising Off Europe Coast Main Trigger

**Neha.Madaan**
@timesofindia.com

**The IMD-IITM study did not attempt to make firm projections about future heat waves but explored a set of large conditions that could be relevant in a future warming scenario**

**Pune:** India's summer heatwaves — the humid, suffocating kind that impact more than dry heat — are not just getting more frequent, but also more intense through a now-identified specific atmospheric chain reaction. A Jan 2026 study by scientists from India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, published in the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, is the first to explain the precise mechanism behind these "moist heatwaves" and the findings have direct implications for early warning, public health, and climate preparedness.

IITM scientist Rajib Chattopadhyay told **TOI** that their earlier study identified two types of Indian summer heatwaves and classified them as dry and moist. "The dry variety, which mainly scorches the northwest plains, is not showing an increasing trend. But the moist variety, in which high humidity compounds with high temperature to make the body's cooling system fail, shows a statistically significant and accelerating trend. The current study provides a hint towards the mechanism which can intensify moist heatwaves over India," he said.

Scientists traced the trigger to Rossby atmospheric wave patterns originating near Europe's west coast. These waves travel through a Europe-Middle East-Indian Ocean pathway and arrive over India as upper-air high-pressure systems, suppressing clouds and baking the surface. "But what turns a bad heatwave worse is a second actor — the anomalous warming in the southernmost Bay of Bengal. When that warm patch generates its own circulation pattern, and the two systems arrive over northwest India simultaneously, they superimpose and amplify each other," Chattopadhyay said.

The anticyclone strengthens, lingers longer, and simultaneously pumps moisture westward into India, producing a lethal combination of heat and humidity. The team validated this using a mathematical atmospheric model run under 129 different experiment configurations.

## Maha cleared anti-conversion law, says min

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra cabinet has approved an anti-conversion law aimed at addressing cases of 'love jihad', state fisheries and ports minister Nitesh Rane said Thursday, **reports Chaitanya Marpakwar.**

The law will be called Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act 2026, he said. The bill is likely to be introduced in ongoing budget session and could then be referred to a joint select committee of both houses of the legislature.

Rane said that before the 2024 state assembly polls, the Mahayuti had promised that a new anti-conversion law would be brought in "by a Hindutva govt." "For that, many workers of Hindutva fought, struggled, protested, and even gave their lives... I can say with pride, a very capable anti-conversion law has been approved by the cabinet," he added.

## CISF to get legal powers to rein in illegal coal mining

**Bhubaneswar:** To effectively combat illegal coal mining in the country, the Centre has decided to add more teeth to Central Industrial Security Force by granting it powers to initiate legal proceedings, similar to those enforced by Railway Protection Force in its jurisdiction, said CISF director general Praveer Ranjan here on Thursday, **reports Debabrata Mohapatra.**

Govt has introduced amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) to empower CISF with the authority to enforce legal provisions, he added.

Currently, the CISF's role is limited to guarding 10 coal mines in the country, with the authority of enforcement resting solely with state mining officials and local police. The new powers will enable CISF to directly act against the offenders.

The DG, who is in Odisha to oversee preparations for the CISF's 57th Raising Day ceremony at Munduli in Cuttack district on Friday, said the coal ministry, in coordination with the industrial security force, is drafting a comprehensive standard operating procedure to enhance coal mine security nationwide. The Raising Day event will be attended by home minister Amit Shah.

Despite deployment of CISF and other security forces, along with technology-driven monitoring systems and the Khanan Prarhari app for public reporting, illegal mining continues unabated.

## COMING UP

TOI presents a round-up of forthcoming key events and birthdays of notable personalities. Scan the QR code to post your wishes

**March 6**

**Janhvi Kapoor**
Bollywood actor known for her performances in films like Dhadak and Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl
@janhvikapoor

**Event**
PM Modi to visit Kochi in Kerala to release the NDA's election manifesto

**March 7**

**Anupam Kher**
Veteran Indian actor with a prolific career across Bollywood and international cinema, known for his versatile character roles
@AnupamPKher
@anupampkher

**Ghulam Nabi Azad**
Senior Indian politician and former Union minister with decades of parliamentary experience
@ghulamnazad
@ghulamnabiazad_49

**March 8**

**Vasundhara Raje**
Senior BJP member and two-time CM of Rajasthan known for her administrative and political leadership
@VasundharaBJP
@vasundhararajeofficial

**Events**
T20 World Cup: Final
International Women's Day

**March 9**

**Shashi Tharoor**
Congress MP, author and former UN diplomat known for his articulate speeches and writings
@ShashiTharoor
@shashitharoor

**Naveen Jindal**
Industrialist and politician, former MP and chairman of Jindal Steel & Power
@MPNaveenJindal
@naveenjindalmp


**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. N-235-62 TELE TENDER-02-2026**

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ. N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document. **(1)** Tender Notice No.: N-235-62 Tele Tender-02-2026, **(2)** Name of work: "Provision of CCTV Cameras for Monitoring of Various Yard of IZN Division, Gorakhpur Jn.-Lucknow Jn. Provision of CCTV system for Yards in LJN Division & Provision of CCTV Cameras for Yard Monitoring in (Ex BSBS)-PRRB section and stations under jurisdiction of RPF thana/CPR in Varanasi Division." **(3)** Tender Value: ₹ 7,92,23,743.22, (Rs. Seven Crore Ninety Two Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fourty Three Rupee & Twenty Two Paisa only). **(4)** Bid Security: ₹ 5,46,100/-, **(5)** Validity of Offer: 60 Days. **(6)** Date & Time of closing and opening of Tender: 02-04-2026 at 15:30 Hrs. **(7)** Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months. **(8)** For any changes of tender, Please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. **(9)** Detailed tender notice, documents, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website ***http://www.ireps.gov.in***

**Note:-** The Tenderer's/bidder's must upload all relevant attachments/Format/Annexure along with their bid.

**Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Eng./Tele/HQ Gorakhpur**
CPRO/Signal-112

***Never travel on roof and foot boards.***

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/172/2026 Dated: 27.02.2026**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

| SN | Item of work | Approx. value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | RFP for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line between Chainage 90000 and Chainage 130375 (40.375 km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical General Services between Hiriyur (Incl.) & Palavvanahalli (Incl.) stations and Extension of various bridges (Civil works) between Palavvanahalli (Exel.) & Chitradurga (Exel) stations (Chainage 130375 to Chainage 140490 (10.115 km)) in Tumkur-Chitradurga Davangere New Line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-DVG-EPC-05)** | ₹782,76,56,049/- |

Date of Closing of tender: **13.05.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/ Bengaluru Cantt.**
PUB/961/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

**Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-41 Dated: 27.02.2026**

| SN | Item of work | Approx. value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | OHE Modification for Proposed Short shunting neck of 260 mtr for Rd-3 towards Kulem end | ₹57,82,969.30 |

**Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-42 Dated: 27.02.2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | OHE Modification for Provisional of 1 Additional Loop Line at Pachapur Station | ₹1,29,43,721.00 |

**Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-43 Dated: 27.02.2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | OHE Modification for Provisional of One Additional Loop Line (5th Line) at Sulebhavi Station | ₹1,28,55,922.00 |

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 30.03.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ Hubballi**
PUB/962/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

**37001/6/2526**
**Odisha Tourism**
**Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road**
**Bhubaneswar-751014**
**Fax No. +91 674 2430887**
**E-mail: info@odishatourism.gov.in**

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିଭାଗ
**Government of Odisha**
**Tourism Department**

**ODISHA** INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ଭବନ, ଲୁଇସ ରୋଡ୍,
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୧୪

No.4671/TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dated 03.03.2026
TCT-TSP-MISC-0028-2026

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SETTING UP AND OPERATIONALIZING RESTAURANTS SERVING AUTHENTIC ODIA CUISINE AT SELECTED LOCATIONS WITHIN ODISHA AND OUTSIDE ODISHA TO PROMOTE ODISHA CULINARY HERITAGE**

Department of Tourism (DoT) invites proposals from prospective applicant(s) for 'Expression of Interest (EOI) for setting up and operationalizing restaurants serving authentic Odia cuisine at selected locations within Odisha and outside Odisha to promote Odisha Culinary Heritage' in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the Expression of Interest (EoI) document.

The Proposals should be submitted by interested applicant(s) to the Director Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014 on or before 18.03.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs. Detailed terms of the RFP may be downloaded from our website: **https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html.**

Sd/-
**Director, Tourism**
OIPR-37001/37001/1/25-26/0003

**13001/475/2526**

**BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM**
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**Letter No. 4422** **Date : 24.02.2026**

**Invitation for Bids**
**NATIONAL COMPETATIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT**
**Bid Identification No. BMC(BAM) : 320/2025-2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A"** | |
| 2 | **Nature of work** | Civil work |
| 3 | **No. of work** | 02 Nos. |
| 4 | **Bid Cost.** | The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A" |
| 5 | **E.M.D** | The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. of Odisha as per Annexure "A" |
| 6 | **Class of Contractor** | AS per the Annexure "A" |
| 7 | **Availability of Bid Documents in the website** | From 11:00 hrs. of 06.03.2026 to 17:00 hrs. of 23.03.2026 |
| 8. | **Date & time of opening of Technical Bids** | 11:30 hrs. onwards on Dt. 24.03.2026 |
| 9. | **Date & Time of Opening of financial bids** | Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids. |
| 10. | **Mode of submission of tender** | Tender should submitted online in **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** |
| 11. | The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only. | |

Sd/- **Commissioner**
**Berhampur Municipal Corporation**
**Berhampur, Odisha**

OIPR-13001/13035/1/25-26/0007

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**ELECTRICAL BRANCH**
**OPEN E-TENDER**
**NIT Dated 27.02.2026**

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), West Central Railway, New Katni Junction for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following work :- **NIT No. NKJ-Overhau-Auxiliary_T20, dated 27.02.2026 Name of work with location-** Overhauling of Auxiliary motors (Along with material as per required of conventional locomotives (WAG9 & WAG7) of DLS/NKJ for Two Years. **Approx. cost of the work (in Rs.)-** Rs.1,92,93,237.00/-, **Earnest Money (Bid Security (in Rs.)** Rs. 2,46,300/-, **Completion period (in months)-**24 Months. **Last date & time for submission of tender (up to 12:00)-** 24.03.2026. The Complete information of the above E-tender are available in website "http://ireps.gov.in". Tenders other than in the form of e-bid shall not be accepted against above tenders.

Sd/-
**For Sr. DEE(TRS), WCR, NKJ**

**AGRICULTURAL MARKETING DEPARTMENT**
**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE**
Mahatma Gandhi Complex, Market Yard, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru - 560022. Phone No: 080-23472850 / 23371695
E-mail: apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

**No: APMC/Bng/Dev/5340/2025-26 Date: 05-03-2026**

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**

**The Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru invites e-Tender from eligible Agencies for Installation of Smart Solution and Operation and Maintenance of MLCP Building on Revenue Sharing Basis for the facility belonging to APMC, Bengaluru.** Eligible Agencies shall submit their tenders through the KPP Portal. Tender documents and detailed information can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender documents is **23-03-2026 upto 5.30 PM.** EMD Amount is **Rs. 3,10,000/-. Indent No: APMC/2025-26/SE0829**

**Sd/- Secretary**
**APMC, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/6021/Adverto/2025-26

**13001/442/2526**

**BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM**
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

Letter No. 4477/ Date : 24/02/26

**Invitation for Bids**
**NATIONAL COMPETATIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT**
Bid Identification No BMC(BAM):-322/2025-2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A" | |
| 2 | Nature of work | Civil work |
| 3 | No. of work | 01 Nos. |
| 4 | Bid Cost. | The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A" |
| 5 | E.M.D | The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A" |
| 6 | Class of Contractor | AS per the Annexure "A" |
| 7 | Availability of Bid Documents in the website | From 11:00 hrs. of 09/03/26 to 17:00 hrs. Of 23/03/26 |
| 8 | Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids | 11:00 hrs. onwards on Dt. 24/03/26 |
| 9 | Date & time of opening of financial bids | Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids. |
| 10 | Mode of submission of tender | Tender Should submitted Online in **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** |
| 11 | The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only. | |

Sd/- **Commissioner**
**Berhampur Municipal Corporation**
**Berhampur, Odisha**

OIPR-13001/13035/1/25-26/0005

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED - ANGADI**
ELCOT Angadi
8th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | 044-28556100 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-SDC-2026-0016**

ELCOT invites **"Tender for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for brownfield development, implementation of cloud platform and 5 year end to end operations (Build, Operate, Transfer) for Tamil Nadu State Data Centre and Tamil Nadu Disaster Recovery Centre".** For complete details, please visit **www.elcot.tn.gov.in** or **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **18.03.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **22.04.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in**

DIPR/1618/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**MALABAR INTERNATIONAL PORT & SEZ LTD**
**INVITATION OF TWO EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**
**EXTENDED UP TO 1st JUNE, 2026, 1700 hrs (IST)**

1. **Development, Operation & Maintenance of the Greenfield Malabar International Port, on Public Private Partnership** (INR 3429 Cr ($ 452.2 M)).
2. **Construction & Maintenance of Breakwaters on EPC–Hybrid Annuity** (INR 1428 Cr ($ 188.34 M)).

Details - **Website: malabarport.kerala.gov.in**
**Email: mdapl.port@kerala.gov.in**
**MD&CEO, MIPS Ltd., N-5, Jawahar Nagar, Trivandrum-695003, KERALA**

**RO No. D3/237/2026/I&PRD**

**भारतीय उष्णदेशीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान**
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY**
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India)
पाषाण, पुणे - 411 008 / PASHAN, PUNE - 411008

**वैश्विक निविदा सूचना/ GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE**

निदेशक, आईआईटीएम निम्नलिखित की आपूर्ति और स्थापना हेतु निर्माताओं / आपूर्तिकारों एवं उनके प्रत्यायित विक्रय एजेंटों से निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं :

Director, IITM invites tenders from Manufacturers / Suppliers and their accredited selling agents for the supply and installation of following

| क्रम सं. Sr. No. | निविदा सं. Tender No. | विवरण/Description |
|---|---|---|
| 01. | पीएस/125/47/2025 PS/125/47/2325 | **स्पेक्ट्रोरेडियोमीटर की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग - मात्रा 8 सेट** Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Spectroradiometer Qty. 08 Sets. |
| 02. | पीएस/125/50/2025 PS/125/50/2325 | **$CO_2$ - $CH_4$ आइसोटोप विश्लेषक की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग-मात्रा 07 सेट / Supply, Installation & Commissioning of $CO_2$-$CH_4$ Isotope Analyzer Qty. - 7 Sets** |
| 03. | पीएस/125/51/2025 PS/125/51/2325 | **$CO_2$, $CH_4$, $N_2O$, $NH_3$, और $H_2O$ आइसोटोप विश्लेषक की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग - मात्रा 07 सेट / Supply, Installation & Commissioning of $CO_2$, $CH_4$, $N_2O$, $NH_3$, and $H_2O$ Analyzer Qty. 07 sets** |

संस्थान को किसी निविदा या सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताए निरस्त करने का अधिकार है। विस्तृत विवरण एवं शर्तों के प्रस्तुतीकरण हेतु कृपया वेबसाइट https://moes.ewtzard.in/ देखें। संशोधित बोलीदाताओं की जानकारी के लिए, निविदा विवरण भी इस संस्थान की वेबसाइट http://www.tropmet.res.in एवं सरकारी सेंट्रल प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल (सीपीपी) http://www.eprocure.gov.in. पर भी उपलब्ध है।

The Institute reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Full details and submission of bids please visit website https://moes.ewtzard.in/ For the information of the prospective bidders, the tender details are also available on this Institute's Website: http://www.tropmet.res.in and Government's Central Procurement Portal (CPP) http://www.eprocure.gov.in.

Sd/-
**प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, पृथ्वी विज्ञान**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
**ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ – ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ**
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕ,
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅನೆಕ್ಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ,
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.shdpkar.in** ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: **cposhdp2020@gmail.com**

ಸಂ: ಮುಯೋಅ/ರಾಹೆಅಯೋ/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/2025-26/2732 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05-03-2026

ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 03/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–03–2026**

ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ (KC-6) ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಾನುಸಾರವಾಗಿ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ:** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 3054–03–001–1–02–195 ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **(2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **(3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್‌ವಾರು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **(4) ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ:** 12 ತಿಂಗಳು.

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳು:–** (1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06/03/2026** ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23/03/2026**ರ ಸಂಜೆ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (2) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23/03/2026** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **4–30** ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25/03/2026** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **05.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (4) ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸಂಭಾವನೀಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01/04/2026** ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (5) ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳು, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080–22224106.**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕ,
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/6036/SMCL/2025-26

**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT**
Office of the Commissioner,
Kaushalya Bhawan, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road,
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೈತಉಇ/ತರಬೇತಿ/ತ–1/AdmissionPvt.candidates/ಮಿವ–02/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–03–2026

**NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION IN GOVT. ITIs FOR 2025 SESSION**

- Applications are invited from Candidates mentioning minimum Qualification, Experience and Other eligibility criteria as per the guidelines of DGT for Private Candidates.
- Govt. ITIs with grading 4.0 and above are eligible to admit private candidates as per guidelines.
- Admissions of eligible candidates as private candidates in Govt. ITIs will be carried out as per the DGT guidelines.
- The schedule of activities for admission of private candidates is as below:
  - **Completion of the Admission process of Private Candidates as per DGT guidelines: on or before 20th March 2026.**

**Note:** Eligible candidates are hereby informed to approach to the nearest Govt. ITIs for further information pertaining to eligibility of candidate, eligibility of participating ITIs, admission processflow & examinations.

**Sd/- Commissioner**
**Industrial Training & Employment.**

DIPR/CP/5999/Adverto/2025-26

# 'Pray for departed soul': Misri signs condolence book on Day 1 of opening

▶Continued from page 1

Jaishankar posted about the "telecon" with Araghchi on X, without elaborating. Araghchi had said earlier in the day that the Iranian warship destroyed by a US submarine was a guest of the Indian Navy.

Misri may meet the minister who is in India for the Raisina Dialogue and will address the event on Friday. Tehran had been hoping that India would express condolences over the killing of Khamenei, if not condemn the US-Israel attacks on Iran. After signing the book, Misri also had a short meeting with Iranian ambassador Mohammad Fathali.

Russian ambassador Denis Alipov and Pakistani charge d'affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich were among the first to sign the condolence book when it was opened in the morning. In his message, Misri expressed condolences on behalf of the govt and people of India. "We pray for peace for the departed soul," he said. However, in 2024, after the death of then Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Jaishankar had himself visited the embassy to sign the condolence book. India had then also declared a day-long national mourning.

PTI
Misri expressed condolences on behalf of the govt and people of India

Misri signed the book on the first day of its opening but the fact that India had not offered its condolences for Khamenei, who was killed on Saturday, had drawn criticism from the opposition.

India always had mixed feelings about Khamenei who endorsed efforts to address shared regional interests with the Indian govt, most notably for connectivity through the Chabahar port, but also riled India on several occasions with his "misinformed and unacceptable" utterances about J&K and Muslims in India. Khamenei met PM Narendra Modi when the latter travelled to Tehran in 2016 for what was the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Iran in 15 years.

## Sri Lankan Navy rescued 32 from Iranian warship

▶Continued from page 1

Another aircraft with air droppable life rafts was also kept standby for immediate deployment. INS Tarangini which was operating in the vicinity, was deployed for aiding the rescue efforts and arrived in search area by 4 pm," it said.

"By this time search and rescue had been undertaken by Sri Lankan Navy and other agencies," the statement said.

The Sri Lankan navy recovered 87 bodies and rescued 32 people after receiving a distress signal from the Iranian warship, 40 nautical miles from the island nation.

A day after the US attack on IRIS Dena, the second Iranian warship was seeking to escape the US nuclear submarine lurking in the Indian Ocean. It had sought permission to enter Sri Lanka's waters, according to its media minister Nalinda Jayatissa. Media reports quoting official sources said the vessel was carrying more than 100 crew and feared they, too, could be targeted the same way its sister warship was sunk. President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** met top officials Thursday to discuss a response to an Iranian request to allow entry to the warship into the safety of the island's waters.

Govt officials have rubbished a former US army officer's statement that the US is using Indian ports to attack Iran. "On a US-based channel, One America News Network, former US Army Colonel Douglas Macgregor made a statement suggesting that the US is using Indian naval bases to attack Iran, amidst the ongoing Iran-US conflict. This claim is FAKE," a PIB fact-check said.

Araghchi comment follows the confirmation on Wednesday by US secretary of war Pete Hegseth that the US had sunk IRIS Dena.

## IAF Sukhoi goes missing after Assam take-off

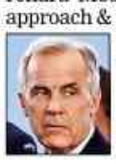
**Guwahati:** A Su-30MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force went missing Thursday evening shortly after taking off from Jorhat air base in Upper Assam, prompting a large search in Karbi Anglong following coordinates where radar contact was lost. The area is known for dense forests and rugged hills, conditions that often complicate aerial surveillance and ground access.

Contact with the Sukhoi fighter was lost at 7.42pm, according to defence spokesperson Lt Col M Rawat. Search teams and air assets were mobilised to locate the aircraft and determine the fate of its crew. "Speculation should be avoided until the search operation yields results," Rawat said.

Indian Air Force wrote on X that "details are being ascertained". The long-range, twin-engine fighter capable of air superiority and ground attack missions forms the backbone of IAF's combat fleet. TNN

## 'Hasn't taken a day off in 25 years': Carney praises PM

**New Delhi:** Canadian PM **Mark Carney** praised Narendra Modi's governance approach & work ethic, saying the Indian PM remained strongly focused on delivering welfare programmes directly to ordinary citizens despite policy & administrative challenges.



Speaking at an interaction hosted by the Lowy Institute in Sydney Thursday, Carney described Modi as a leader deeply committed to implementing reforms that reached people at the grassroots level. Carney explained how India's financial and digital reforms were designed to ensure welfare benefits reached citizens directly. "He has not taken a single day off in the last 25 years either as chief minister of Gujarat or as PM," he said. TNN

## Amit Shah did not consult me over change of guard: Mamata

▶Continued from page 1

Mamata was quick to target BJP, her main challenger in the assembly polls, as she expressed "shock and deep concern". "The reasons behind his resignation are not known to me at this moment. However, given the prevailing circumstances, I would not be surprised if the governor has been subjected to some pressure from the Union home minister to serve certain political interests on the eve of the forthcoming state assembly elections," she wrote on X, sharing that home minister Amit Shah called her to say that Ravi, currently Tamil Nadu governor, will be replacing Bose.

She said Shah did not consult her over the change of guard "as per established convention". Ravi has been at odds with the TN govt over a host of issues and his expected transfer to Bengal assumes significance due to Mamata's vehement protest against EC's SIR exercise in the state with elections set to be conducted with the new voters' list.

The suddenness of Bose's decision was borne out by the fact that a Raj Bhavan social media channel posted his key official engagements on Friday till a few hours before the announcement. The engagements included his "presence" at the Darjeeling Hill Festival.

## Modi, Macron discuss need for talks, diplomacy

After talking to Macron, Modi said they will continue to work together for cessation of hostilities in W Asia

**New Delhi:** India continued to engage the international community over the situation in West Asia region as PM Modi on Thursday spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron, reiterating the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy. After his telephonic conversation with Macron, the PM said they will continue to work together for cessation of hostilities in the region.

"Spoke with my friend President Emmanuel Macron today. We discussed our shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy. We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," Modi said in a post on X. TNN

## Amid conflict, India & US talk on insurance for energy shipments

TNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi:** India is discussing with the US the possibility of securing marine insurance cover for vessels transporting oil and gas from West Asia to protect buyers from potential supply disruptions due to conflict, officials said on Thursday.

The move came days after US President Donald Trump said he had asked the US International Development Finance Corporation to provide political risk insurance and financial guarantees for maritime trade in the Gulf. Trump had also said that, if required, the US Navy could begin escorting oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are in touch with US authorities to secure cover from the International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz," an official said. India gets over 40% of its imported crude, 60-65% of natural gas and 90% of cooking gas supplies from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait through this narrow channel, which has been disrupted due to the conflict. Tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz has almost come to a halt because of the crisis.

**India gets over 40% of its imported crude, 60-65% of natural gas and 90% of cooking gas supplies from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait via the Strait of Hormuz, which has been disrupted due to the West Asia crisis**

The official, however, said that before the IDFC can provide such cover, a corpus worth hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be set up. The premium for the insurance will have to be paid by parties contracting the cargo, the official added.

Trump stepped in after global reinsurers Protection & Indemnity (P&I) clubs announced cancellation of war risk insurance for vessels transiting the strait and Iranian waters. The cancellations are effective from this week. Amid more tankers coming under attack from Iran, insurance market Lloyd's of London said on Thursday it is engaging with US authorities on Trump's plan as oil prices continue to rise.

The US administration is yet to announce the details of the insurance plan two days after Trump had said that his order was "effective immediately".

## Deal almost done but won't repeat mistake made with China: US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The US is excited about the trade deal with India, which is at the "finish line" now, as it can be the basis for unlocking almost limitless potential, said US visiting deputy secretary of state **Christopher Landau**. The official expressed hope that the US, India and others would be able to work together for a transition in the Middle East that would allow the region to reach a new normal.

However, on relations with India, Landau also said that the US will not repeat the mistakes it committed with China that allowed Beijing to become a competitor.

"India should understand that we're not going to make the same mistakes that we made with China 20 years ago in terms of saying, 'Oh, you know, we're going to let you be able to develop all these markets and then, you know, the next thing we know is you're beating us in a lot of commercial events," said the official, speaking at the Raisina Dialogue.

"We're going to make sure that whatever we do, it's fair to our people, because ultimately, we have to be accountable to our own people, just as the Govt of India has to be accountable to its people," said the official, even as he described India as a country of unlimited potential.

The official also said he could think of no better alternative source of energy for India than the US.

On ties with India, Landau also said that the US is not a charity organisation for the UN. "I'm not here to do social work or charity; I'm here because it's in the interest of our country, and we think it's in the interest of India, to deepen our partnership," he said.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

**KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, 49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
**Tele:** 080-22258131-32-33, **E-mail:** murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com / info@ksiidc.com
**web:** www.ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in

**NOTIFICATION TO RECRUIT COMPANY SECRETARY, CIVIL ENGINEERS AND SENIOR ASSISTANTS ON CONTRACT BASIS**

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC) is a premier Infrastructure Development Institution of the State functioning as Nodal Agency of the Government for supervising the implementation of current mega Infrastructure and Airport projects. Applications are invited for the below mentioned posts from eligible candidates:

| Sl. No. | Name of the posts (Contract Basis) | Qualification and Experience Details | Monthly consolidated salary in Rs. | Age Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Company Secretary (One Post) | The candidate must possess ACS (pass in Company Secretary final). Should be a member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). Must have an experience of 8-10 years in the relevant field. Knowledge of Kannada, including the ability to speak, read, and write, is essential. | Rs. 1,75,000/- | **Minimum:** 35 years **Maximum:** 45 years |
| 2 | Civil Engineers (Two Posts) | The candidate must possess a B.E. degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or Educational Institution, along with M.E./M.Tech in Structural Engineering and should have a minimum of five years of experience in major infrastructure or airport projects. | Rs. 70,000/- | **Minimum:** 30 years **Maximum:** 45 years |
| 3 | Senior Assistants (Three Posts) | The candidate must possess B.Sc. or B.Com or BBA or BCA or BBM from a recognised University. along with Senior English and Kannada shorthand/typewriting, knowledge of computer applications with 3 years of experience in the relevant field.. | Rs. 20,000/- | **Minimum:** 25 years **Maximum:** 35 years |

**General Instructions:**
1. The appointment for the post of Company Secretary shall be on contract basis for a period of five (5) years. For all other posts, the appointment shall be on contract basis for a period of one (1) year. The contract may be extended based on the Corporation's requirements and the candidate's performance.
2. The mode of selection shall be based on educational qualifications, relevant experience and performance in the interview.
3. Interested candidates are required to submit their resumes along with copies of educational qualification and experience certificates, either by Speed Post or in person, to the Deputy General Manager (P&A), KSIIDC, at the above-mentioned address. The applications must reach within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification. The date and time of the interview will be intimated separately.
4. For any clarification, please contact Deputy General Manager (Mobile No.: 98458-33566)

**Sd/- Executive Director**



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**राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अगरतला**
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA**
Barjala, Jirania (W) Tripura - 799046

No. F.NITA.2(545-Estt)/2022/11450 Date: 23.02.2026

**FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

Applications are invited for recruitment to the posts of Professor and Associate Professor at NIT Agartala in various Academic Departments. **The submission has two steps: (1) The applicants need to apply through online application submission system available on the Institute website (http://www.nita.ac.in/). (2) In the next step, the printed copy of the filled in application along with all self attested documents are to be submitted to the Registrar, NIT Agartala.**
Applicants are requested to go through the details of posts, educational qualifications, experience, others criteria and instructions for selection to faculty positions, which are available on the Institute website (**http://www.nita.ac.in/**).
Opening date of Online portal : **01.03.2026**
Last date of Submission of online application : **31.03.2026**
Last date of receipt of printed copy of application : **15.04.2026**
Reservation policy for different category will be applicable as per Govt. of India norms. Applicants are to submit their online applications and subsequently the printed copy of online application along with all supporting documents to be sent to the Office of the Registrar, NIT Agartala.

**REGISTRAR**



**Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra**
**(Formerly Agra University, Agra)**

Advertisement No: DBRAU/RW/2026/A26- A27 Date: 28-02-2026

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

In continuation of Advertisement No. DBRAU/RW/2026/ A01-A25 dated 20.01.2026, online applications are invited in the prescribed format for filling regular posts of Assistant Professor in the subjects of **Zoology and Physics** at the University. The last date for submission of the online application form is **17.04.2026.** A printout of the duly filled online application form, along with the annexure, must reach the office of the Registrar by registered post on or before **27.04.2026** up to 05:00 PM. For online application, please visit the University Samarth Portal **https://dbraurec.samarth.edu.in** Further information is available on the University website **http://www.dbrau.ac.in/** Applicants are advised to apply before the last date. **Registrar**



CIN: L65190MH2004GOI148838

**Regd. Office:** IDBI Bank Ltd, IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai – 400005
**Tel:** 022-66553355

**IDBI Bank Ltd.**
Advertisement No. 6 & 7/2025-26

**Recruitment of Assistant Manager - Grade 'A' Junior Assistant Manager - Grade 'O' 2026-27**

IDBI Bank Ltd. invites online applications for the following positions :

| S.N. | Position | Tentative Vacancies |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Assistant Manager – Grade 'A' | 200 |
| 2. | JAM - Grade 'O' (Regional) | 1100 |

For eligibility criteria (age, qualification etc.), requisite fees and other details, please visit the 'Careers' section of the Bank's website **www.idbibank.in**

***Online registration window - March 8, 2026 till March 19, 2026.***

**NOTE:** IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Any addendum/modifications with regards to the selection process shall only be published on the Bank's website (career section) **www.idbibank.in** and not through any other mode. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the website as above, for update in the matter.

**Place – Mumbai** **General Manager- HR**



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Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
**DWARKADAS J. SANGHVI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**
**(AUTONOMOUS)**
Plot No. U-15, Juhu Scheme, Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400 056

**MINORITY**
**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26.**
**UNAIDED**

| Cadre | Subject | Category |
|---|---|---|
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Information Technology | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Computer Engineering | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science) | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Mechanical Engineering | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Data Science | 01 - OPEN |
| PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos | Information Technology | 02 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos | Computer Engineering | 02 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos | Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science) | 03 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos | Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 02 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos | Mechanical Engineering | 02 - OPEN |

| Cadre | Subject | Category |
|---|---|---|
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Computer Science and Engineering (IOT and Cyber Security with Block Chain Technology) | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Information Technology | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos | Computer Engineering | 03 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science) | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos | Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 02 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos | Mechanical Engineering | 03 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Computer Science and Engineering (IOT and Cyber Security with Block Chain Technology) | 01 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 10 Nos | Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering | 10 - OPEN |
| ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No | Applied Mathematics | 01 - OPEN |

**For Professor (Horizontal Reservation) – Women – 02 Posts. | For Associate Professor (Horizontal Reservation):– Persons with Disability Total Posts – 01 (A Group-B./LV.-01 Post) | Sportsmen – 01 Post & Women – 04 Posts | For Assistant Professor (Horizontal Reservation):– Persons with Disability Total Posts – 01 (A Group-B./LV.-01 Post) | Sportsmen – 01 Post & Women – 07 Posts.**

The above posts are open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.
Reservation for women will be as per **University Circular No. : BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.**
Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
**The Educational Qualification, Experience and pay-scale for the post of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor are as prescribed by the University of Mumbai, AICTE and DTE from time to time.**
**Please refer University Circular No मशिमाक/विशिमाक/तंत्रशिक्षण/११/२०२०-२०२१ दिनांक ११ जानेवारी, २०२१ for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.**
Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel.
Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any, in their academic career.
Applications with full details should reach **THE PRINCIPAL, DWARKADAS J.SANGHVI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, PLOT NO. U-15, JUHU SCHEME, BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMIMARG, VILE PARLE (W), MUMBAI 400056** within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
This is University approved advertisement.

**Sd/-**
**PRINCIPAL**

**It is advised to submit the applications along with Resume/CV online through Career Section on www.djsce.ac.in.**

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No. 50 UBL 2025-26 Dated: 28-02-2026

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

| Sl. | Name of Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hubballi Division :- Proposed construction of Type-II, 12 units staff quarters at Londa on replacement. | Rs. 2,86,82,312/ |
| 2 | Hubballi Division :- In-situ Re-Conditioning of Switches & CMS Crossings using Translomatic robot welding technique. | Rs. 1,57,56,135/- |
| 3 | Hubballi Division :- Supply of Bullock at Kalam Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer/West/Hubballi Jurisdiction. | Rs. 4,94,54,668/- |

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 26-03-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/SWR/APR/27/WR/365-60 Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/Hubballi

Download the RailOne app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at the fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through RailOne app, and enjoy upto 3% discount

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

## ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ:

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Bagalkote Town Development Authority,
Division No: 01, Bagalkote-587102 E-mail: btdada1@gmail.com

No:EE/BTDA/Dn.01/PB-03/ Tender Notification No.08/2025-26/3562 Date: 04/03/2026

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 08
(Through karnataka public Procurement Portal only)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, tenders are invited from Bagalkote Town Development Authority Bagalkote for works from KPWD registered eligible contractors pertaining to Indent No: 105, 107, 101, 97, 106, 108 100, 98, 103, 104, 102, 95, 96 and 99 Costing Rs. 13.96 Lakhs to Rs 202.85 Lakhs Tenders Called.

The intending bidders for work details may login to karnataka public Procurement Portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till 20.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM, technical bids will be opened on 23.03.2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible), and financial bids will be opened on 25.03.2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over Telephone Number 08354-295372.

**Note :** 1) Please note henceforth, the calendar of events published in Karnataka public Procurement Portal is final. 2) Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events Corrigendum/ Addendum will be published in karnataka public Procurement Portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
DFS/BCK/RC-NO-633/ESPACA/2025-26 BTDA, Division No.01, Bagalkote

## HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LTD

(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer(Ele),
Tendering & Procurement
P. B. Road, Navanagar, HUBBALLI-580025
Mob.: 94482 77602
E-mail: sectp.hescom@gmail.com / secty@hescom.co.in

Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No:HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/E-TAEE-2/2025-26/CYS-11838 Dated: 04-03-2026

### TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal Only)

The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part–I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II :Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for manufacture & supply of the following.

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Enq. No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Manufacture & Supply of 8/9Mtr, RCC/PSCC Poles in Divisions & Sub-Divisions of HESCOM. | HESCOM/2025-26/ IND0124 to IND0172 |

For further details visit the website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on OR after 06.03.2026

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Tendering & Procurement
HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/CWD/1327/2025-26/DESHPANDE/PUBLICITY

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

New Deluxe Building, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI Reference No.: EOI/MCC/2026/2

Municipal Corporation Chandigarh (MCC) re-invites applications from Society / AWO / NGO / Self Help Group / Charitable Institution / Firm etc., registered under AWBI / Indian Societies Act / Indian Trusts Act / Indian Religious and Charitable Trusts Act for Operation and Maintenance of Gaushala at Raipur Kalan under Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, free of cost / at minimal cost.

Interested applicants can download the EOI document from the MCC website **http://mcchandigarh.gov.in** and shall submit their applications in physical form latest by **20.03.2026** before **05.00 PM** in the office of MOH, 30 Bays Building, S.C.O. 6 to 9, Ground Floor, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh.

All corrigendum / addendums / clarifications regarding this EOI shall only be posted on the MC website i.e. **http://mcchandigarh.gov.in.** No other communication or advertisement will be given. Authority will not be responsible in case any applicant fails to submit the application within stipulated time period for any reasons.

**Commissioner**
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

## RAJASTHAN SAMWAD

Department of Information and Public Relations, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005
(Telephone & Fax No. 0141- 2227057, E-mail id :- dipr.rajasthan@gmail.com, eproc.dipr@gmail.com)

### Corrigendum

With reference to EOI No.13 dated 13.02.2026 for rate contract with agencies working in the field of rental sole right media sites for hiring of rental sites. Earlier the last date of submission of EOI was 05.03.2026 now the last date of submission of EOI has been extended to 23.03.2026 till 3 pm.

Raj.Samwad/C/25/21760 Executive Director (Finance)

## PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office :- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-18773

### TENDER ENQUIRY No. : QQ-2377/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 1,000 MT Galvanized Stranded Steel (GSS) Wire Grade 5 size 7/3.15 mm as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2377/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.03.2026 onwards.

NOTE : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-335/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2025-26/9065

## KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Chief Engineer, (Project Execution & Buildings), North, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Kozhikode.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_841955_1 PAC: Rs. Rs.1,31,10,884/-
Last Date: 21.03.2026 03:30 pm
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_841970_1 PAC: Rs. Rs.1,95,74,427/-
Last Date: 21.03.2026 03:00 pm

CORRIGENDUM

O/o the Executive Engineer, General Division, Kodungallur, Thrissur.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_839319_1 PAC: Rs. Rs.1,26,52,200/-
Last Date: 17.03.2026 03:00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref PRVC/AE16-E-tender/2026

## PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 11/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 Dated: 06.03.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No. 1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 3 no. Augmentation of Power Transformer (12.5 mva to 20 mva including matching work) related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.03.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

**Note :** Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-330/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2025-26/9079

## BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP),
5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-H&A,V-WEST)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/839/2025-26 Date: 03.03.2026

### INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the work of **Refurbishment of existing 1 MLD STP at JP Park, Mathikere.**

Approximate Value of work : **Rs. 375.9 Lakhs.**

Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs. 5.64 Lakhs.**

The last date for the receipt of the tenders: **20.03.2026 upto 17.00 hours.** The Technical Proposals will be opened on: **23.03.2026 at 17:30 hours.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RA/6015/2025-26 Chief Engineer(UWP).

## PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 12/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 Dated:06.03.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No. 1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 6 no. Additional PTF's (4 no. With 20 MVA PTF and 2 no. With 12.5 MVA PTF) related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.03.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

**Note :** Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-331/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2025-26/9080

## Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited

CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042809
Regd. & Corp. Office : 'Urja Sadan',
N. V. Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT
DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 (or 1800 233 3003)

### Tender Notice

Tender details are put up on www.dgvcl.com (for view & download tender documents) and https://tender.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

| Sr. No. | Tender No. | Estimated Cost (in Crore) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DGVCL/ SP / 2603 / 11KV Disc Hardware | 16.29 |

**Note**: Bidders may visit the above website/s for regular updates till opening of the tender.

ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat.

## Government of Karnataka
## Department Of Health and Family Welfare

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/ACC-2/OUT SOURCE TENDER/26/2025-26 Date:03-03-2026

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar is inviting application from Man Power agencies for outsourcing the services of Driver, Group-D, Non-Clinical, Para Medical Staff and Ab-Art Exam Executive as per the government norms for the period 2026-27 through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. (Amount to Put to Tender 249.00 Lakhs) **(INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/SE2025)**

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between date:03-03-2026 to date: 02-04-2026 time up to (4:30) pm. For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number 08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and
Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No:572

## TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUT SOUDHA::VIJAYAWADA - 04
CIN: U31909AP1998SGC107226. Website: www.aptransco.gov.in

### NOTIFICATION

NOTIFICATION No. CGM (HRD & Admin/DS(Per)/AS/PO(ES_I)/E-3159245/2026, Dt: 05.03.2026

Ref:- NOTIFICATION No. CGM (HRD & Admin/DS(Per)/AS/PO(ES_I)/E-3094490/2026, Dt: 05.02.2026

Last date for submission of applications for the posts of **Centre Head, Initiative Lead and Community Lead** for the **"WEF–AP Centre for Energy Transition & Cyber Resilience, Amaravati"** is **extended from 14.02.2026 to 16.03.2026**. For details visit www.aptransco.gov.in.

**Place:** Vijayawada & **Date:** 05.03.2026

RO No. GMCC/APTRANSCO/62/26 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HRD)

## KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

### SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites bids for the following tender from eligible vendors:

**1. Tender ID: 2026_KERA_844104_1**

**Goods:** Supply and Installation of Soil Testing Laboratories equipment for Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Kerala Agriculture University (KAU)

(Ref. No. KERA/01/GOODS/2026/RFB)

**Last date of submission of Bid is 06/04/2026, 3:00 PM**

The tender Document can be downloaded from Kerala eTender portal starting from **05/03/2026, 4:30PM.**

## THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

### NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

**Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/06/2025-26)**

**Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)**

| Sl. No. | DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 692/2019) | Minimum Bid Price (Rs) | EMD (Rs) | Bid Increase Value (Rs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | No. 2/3, New PID No.078-W0202-8 (Old PID No.91-76-2/3), Spencer Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-05, measuring East to West 52.6 ft and North to South 38 ft aggregating 1998.8 Sq.ft Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/MPsttJnuANmSDoKo8 Latitude and Longitude: 12°59'50.0"N 77°36'29.9"E | | | |
| (a) | Ground Floor, Flat No.GF-01, UDS-399.67, SBA- 1602 Sq.ft | 1,61,50,000/- | 16,15,000/- | 1,62,000/- |
| (b) | 1st Floor, Flat No. FF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft | 1,63,40,000/- | 16,34,000/- | 1,64,000/- |
| (c) | 2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-01, UDS-399.76 , SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft | 1,65,30,000/- | 16,53,000/- | 1,66,000/- |
| (d) | 3rd Floor, Flat No.TF-01, UDS-399.76 , SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft | 1,62,45,000/- | 16,25,000/- | 1,63,000/- |
| (e) | 4th Floor, Flat No.FRF-01, UDS-399.76 , SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft | 1,62,45,000/- | 16,25,000/- | 1,63,000/- |

| Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place | Date of Inspection & time | Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission | Date & Time of E Auction |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01 | 11th March 2026 11:00am to 01:00pm | 16th March 2026 Before 5pm | 18th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm |

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/CP/6031/Zen/2025-26 (Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

## KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref: 1) No: EE/ RNR/UTP/PB-1/2025-26/2996,3005 & 3006 Dt: 03-03-2025

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Through KPP- portal system ]

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for 3 Works under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.10.05(without GST)crores. The details is as follows Indent No:3210 CALL-3,3239 & 4140

(1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders from:04-03-2026 to 11-03-2026. 5-00 pm (2) Last Dete and time for tender queries before 09-03-2026 Upto 04.00 PM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On 12-03-2026 @05-30PM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP-portal.

1947 Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

## ONGC TRIPURA POWER COMPANY LTD.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited (OTPC) invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from reputed and experienced International/National firms for the **Supply of Refurbished/New Rotor for GE Frame 9FA.03 Gas Turbine** for its 2 x 363.3 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Palatana, Tripura.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. | EOI No. | OTPC/GT/DEL/25-26/001 |
| b. | Date of Issue of EOI | 3rd March 2026 |
| c. | Last date and time for submission of EOI at 10th Floor, Core 4 & Central, SCOPE MINAR, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi – 110092 (India), or Upload the documents on CPP Portal https://etenders.gov.in | 27th March 2026 at 3:00 PM |

EOI document can be downloaded from **https://etenders.gov.in** at the Central Public Procurement Portal and from our official website **www.otpcindia.in.** Amendments / Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any would be hosted on the website only.

Managing Director, OTPC

## THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

### NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

**Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/10/2025-26)**

**Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)**

| Sl. No. | DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 707/2019) | Minimum Bid Price (Rs) | EMD (Rs) | Bid Increase Value (Rs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | No.7/2, PID No. 76-36-7/2, Alexandra Street, Richmond Town, Old Ward No. 76 New Ward No. 117, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru. East to west toward East 65' 3 & Towards West 51+ 10 ft & North to South Towards North 59 ft & toward South 68 ft Aggregating 4010 sq.ft . Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/GB9VyYJrwfcfagiS8 | | | |
| (a) | 1st floor, Flat No. FF-101, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft | 2,51,08,500/- | 25,11,000/- | 2,52,000/- |
| (b) | 1st floor, Flat No. FF-102, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft | 2,44,34,000/- | 24,44,000/- | 2,45,000/- |
| (c) | 2nd floor, Flat No. SF-201, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft | 2,53,55,500/- | 25,36,000/- | 2,54,000/- |
| (d) | 2nd floor, Flat No. SF-202, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft | 2,46,81,000/- | 24,69,000/- | 2,47,000/- |
| (e) | 4th floor, Flat No.FRT-401, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft | 2,49,85,000/- | 24,99,000/- | 2,50,000/- |
| (f) | 4th floor, Flat No.FRT-402, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft | 2,43,20,000/- | 24,32,000/- | 2,44,000/- |
| (g) | 5th floor, Flat No.FTF-500, UDS-711, SBA-3301.25 sq.ft | 4,76,99,500/- | 47,70,000/- | 4,77,000/- |
| (h) | 6th floor, Pent House No.501, UDS-383.37, SBA-1780 sq.ft | 2,60,39,500/- | 26,04,000/- | 2,61,000/- |

| Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place | Date of Inspection & time | Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission | Date & Time of E Auction |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09 th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01 | 13 th March 2026 11:00am to 01:00pm | 16 th March 2026 Before 5pm | 18 th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm |

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/CP/6028/Zen/2025-26 (Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

## BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC,
Amruthalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru–560092

No.: BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/14/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC on behalf of Advertisements Department invites bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible licensed / registered advertisers with BNCC / any other Bengaluru City Corporation for assignment of commercial advertisement rights in 2- Zones in accordance with the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules 2025.

All interested bidders shall submit their bids electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

**The tender schedule is as mentioned below:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Date from which bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) | 09.03.2026 from 3:00 p.m. |
| Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue | 16.03.2026 at 3:00 p.m. Office of the Addl. Commissioner (Revenue), Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), Amruthalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru–560092 |
| Last date for seeking clarification if any | 16.03.2026 at 3:00 p.m. |
| Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform | 04.04.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. |
| Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical bid & Technical Evaluation | 06.04.2026 at 11:00 a.m. |
| Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial bid of Technically qualified bidders (if possible) | Immediately after technical evaluation. |
| Contact person for queries | Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Mobile: **8867488804** ARO (Advt) Zone-1, Mobile: **9845208509** ARO (Advt) Zone-2, Mobile: **9663366263** Email: dcyel.bbmp@gmail.com |
| Place of opening of tenders and address for communication | **Office of the Addl. Commissioner (Revenue), Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), Amruthalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru–560092** |
| EMD Amount | Rs. 20 Lakhs (out of which Rs. 16 Lakhs as Bank Guarantee and rest Rs. 4 Lakhs paid in eProcurement Portal) for each Zone wise bid. |

**Note:** Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal system only in the manner described in this tender on or before the last date & time stipulated.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation**

# Nitish Move Triggers Power Play In Bihar

## Political tie-ups against NDA face acid test in Bihar, Odisha RS polls

Kumar Rakesh | TNN

**New Delhi:** As the nomination process for Rajya Sabha elections spread across 10 states ended on Thursday, moves for new political alignments, including a rare BJD-Congress tie-up in Odisha and unity of BJP's rivals in Bihar, are up for a stern test, while developments in Maharashtra signalled that attempts for the merger of the two NCP factions have come to naught.

While candidates in most states are set to be elected unopposed, both Bihar and Odisha are headed for a keen battle on March 16.

RJD's decision to renominate its outgoing MP and businessman A D Singh has forced a contest in one of the five seats in Bihar. He can even pull it off if all of BJP's rivals, including 5 AIMIM MLAs and the lone BSP MLA, join hands with the RJD-Congress-Left combine.

Yet, the NDA camp, which will have 38 votes to spare for the fifth seat after allocating the necessary 41 votes each to ensure its win on four seats, is sanguine about its prospects in the belief that a contest will only end up exposing divisions in the opposition's ranks and even force some defections.

IANS

JDU workers protest against Nitish Kumar filing his nomination for Rajya Sabha outside the CM's residence in Patna on Thursday

Unity among all opposition parties will get Singh 41 votes, but AIMIM, which was snubbed by the RJD-led alliance on its suggestion for a tie-up during last year's polls, is yet to spell out its stand.

The political temperature in Odisha, another state where a contest is on the cards, has gone up a notch after Congress decided to back BJD's choice of an eminent doctor, Datteswar Hota, and BJP then announced its support for former Union minister Dilip Ray, a well-networked hotelier contesting as an independent candidate.

Archrivals for decades, BJP's swift ascendancy in the state has brought BJD and Congress together; both parties can pull together 32 MLAs to ensure Hota's win against the requisite backing of 30.

However, instances of discontent within the two parties have muddied the waters. BJP has a history of outmanoeuvreing its rivals in closely contested RS seats, and its decision to back Ray is driven by its instinct to play on their internal differences to spring a surprise.

With all three MVA parties backing Sharad Pawar's renomination for the lone seat they could win of the seven on offer, claims of his supporters about an "imminent merger" between the two NCP factions should pause.

A senior Sena UBT functionary said they have been told there is little possibility of the two factions coming together, as the group headed by Ajit Pawar's wife, Sunetra Pawar, never warmed up to Sharad Pawar's desire—marking a reversal of his public "I have had enough" stance — to do another term in RS.

Parth Pawar, the son of Ajit Pawar who is set to be elected unopposed, will be arrayed against his grand uncle as a member of NDA.

In the elections to 37 Rajya Sabha seats, the BJP-led NDA has continued with its push to expand its social coalition by reaching out to different sections of society, illustrated by their nominees from Maharashtra. BJP has backed a Dalit in Ramdas Athawale, a tribal woman in Maya Chintaman Inwate, a Maratha in its national general secretary Vinod Tawde and Ramrao Wadkute, and an OBC candidate from Dhangar community. Its ally Shiv Sena, too, has picked a Dalit woman, Jyoti Waghmare.

## Nitish's RS shift sparks fury, cadres threaten self-immolation

**Patna:** Protests broke out outside Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's official residence and JDU office Thursday after he filed nomination papers for Rajya Sabha, with party workers vandalising furniture, gheraoing functionaries and threatening self-immolation, report **Sheezan Nezami** and **Kshitiz**.

Workers gathered at 1, Anne Marg in Patna and sought to meet Nitish. They warned of "dire consequences" if denied access. Demonstrators alleged a conspiracy behind the move and claimed the CM was being "forced" to shift to Parliament.

At JDU office, protesters smashed chairs and tables, and shouted slogans targeting certain party functionaries, branding them 'Jaichand' — the 12th-century king of Kannauj villainised as a traitor.

A group also surrounded state president, Umesh Kushwaha, when he tried to pacify them. "Nitish has not yet resigned from the CM's post. The sentiments of the workers and their concerns will be conveyed to him," Kushwaha said.

Outside Nitish's residence, several workers threatened to set themselves ablaze.

## Spotlight returns to Nishant despite distance from politics

Abhay.Singh@timesofindia.com

**Patna:** Reluctant figure. Persistent speculation. Nishant Kumar keeps returning to Bihar's political conversation despite carefully avoiding it.

He briefly emerged Wednesday as a possible JDU nominee for Rajya Sabha before focus swung back to his father, Nitish Kumar, by evening. The Bihar chief minister eventually filed nomination papers himself. Attention on Nishant is not new. For years, party workers and observers have floated his name as a possible successor whenever questions arise about Nitish stepping aside.

Born July 20, 1975, he grew up largely away from political life. His upbringing revolved around his mother, Manju Sinha, a govt schoolteacher. He spent much of his childhood with her in Patna's Kankarbagh area. He is unmarried and reports suggest he owns property inherited from his late mother.

Education took him across institutions — St Karen's School in Patna; Manav Bharti India International School in Mussoorie; and BTech from Birla Institute of Technology in Mesra.

Public life never seemed to attract him. He is not a member of JDU. Soft-spoken and reserved, Nishant rarely interacts with the media and avoids political controversy. On rare occasions when he speaks publicly, the remarks usually centre on his father.

**RELUCTANT HEIR?** Nishant

Before 2025 Bihar assembly polls, he said: "People of Bihar will definitely give him (Nitish) a chance to work. He has worked a lot and will continue to do so in future."

Despite his reluctance, sections within JDU have repeatedly projected him as a possible heir. Supporters speculate about a role if Bihar politics shifts — including talk of a deputy chief ministership should BJP form a govt with its own CM after Nitish's possible move to Parliament.

Nishant keeps distance from politics. Yet each political tremor around his father pulls him into view — a quiet presence at the centre of a succession debate he has never sought.

### Tejashwi: Nitish has been hijacked

RJD's **Tejashwi Yadav** on Thursday alleged that Bihar CM, Nitish Kumar, is being sent to RS under pressure, and said he has full sympathy for Kumar. "I had earlier said Nitish has been hijacked. I wish him good health and thank him for serving Bihar for 20 years... Had he remained with RJD,

the current situation would not have arisen," he said. He described the political changes in Bihar as an attempt by BJP to suppress 'bahujan politics' and termed it a "betrayal of the mandate", alleging NDA sought votes with the slogan "2025 se 30 phir se Nitish", but BJP had mentally pressured him into taking the step. Tejashwi said that the next chief minister would be "nothing but a rubber stamp", alleging BJP wanted to implement RSS agenda in the state. — **Sheezan Nezami**

## Probable five faces who are likely to replace Nitish

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

**Patna:** Five names from BJP are doing the rounds to step into CM Nitish Kumar's shoes — Samrat Choudhary, Nityanand Rai, Sanjay Jaiswal, Dilip Jaiswal, and Janak Ram.

**Samrat Choudhary:** The deputy CM, and second most powerful person in the state cabinet. A former BJP state chief, he belongs to Koeri community and fits into the Luv-Kush chemistry promoted by Nitish, a Kurmi. Koeris represent 4.2% of Bihar's population. His greatest strength is his aggressive style. However, his RJD and JDU background may go against him.

**Sanjay Jaiswal:** West Champaran MP since 2009, and ex-BJP Bihar chief. He is considered a suave but tough politician when it comes to taking on opposition. Belons to Vaishya community. He is considered close to BJP brass and fits into the party's caste chemistry.

**Dilip Jaiswal:** A Bihar minister, headed BJP in the state when NDA won 202 seats in Nov assembly polls. Belonging to Vaishya (Kalwar) community, he is considered close to Shah. A moderate and organisationally reliable politician, he hails from Kishanganj.

**Nityanand Rai:** Union MoS, enjoys the confidence of Amit Shah, and can play a big role in denting RJD votes among his Yadav community. An ex-state BJP chief with an ABVP background. But many in BJP believe that elevating him to the top post in Bihar may antagonise other OBC and EBC communities.

**Janak Ram:** The 53-year-old Dalit face of BJP in Bihar. He was minister of mines and SC and ST welfare. An ex-Gopalganj MP, Janak is an MLC and is considered an organisational man. He belongs to Ravidas community and maintains a low profile. He started his political career in BJP at the grassroots level.

## MEET 'N' GREET BEFORE RS RUN

X/@NitishKumar

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar presents a Madhubani shawl to Union home minister Amit Shah before filing nomination papers for Rajya Sabha elections, in Patna on Thursday

## Nitish didn't speak of stepping down from party leadership, says JDU neta

Madan.Kumar @timesofindia.com

**Patna:** Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's decision to return to Parliament set off intense speculation over future leadership of JDU, placing focus on a possible political entry by his son, Nishant.

Party insiders said Nishant, 50, is expected to formally join JDU on Sunday, a step that could mark beginning of a broader transition within the organisation after Nitish filed Thursday nomination papers for RS.

Attention within JDU has shifted to what lies ahead once Nitish, 75, moves to national politics after two decades at centre of Bihar's governance. JDU working president, Sanjay Jha, already serves in Rajya Sabha. Nitish's arrival in Upper House would place party's two top functionaries in Parliament.

"Though Nitish hinted at relinquishing CM's post, he has not spoken about stepping down from party leadership," a senior JDU functionary said. "While serving in RS, he may focus more on organisational work and strengthening party."

### CHANGES AHEAD?

For now, Nitish remains CM and JDU president. His move to Parliament has opened a new chapter for JDU, forcing party functionaries to search for a structure that can keep it politically relevant in Bihar's shifting power equation.

A functionary said changes in party structure remain possible if Nitish assumes a major role in New Delhi. "If Nitish is given any significant assignment there, he may bring changes in organisational setup," the functionary said, requesting anonymity.

Though Nishant has shunned politics all along, his entry has intensified succession talk within JDU. Party members expect him to gradually assume organisational responsibilities.

Any leadership shift, however, will likely wait until Nitish formally resigns as CM and takes oath as a Rajya Sabha member, another JDU functionary said.

Family members publicly backed Nishant's entry into politics. "Nishant's entry into politics is necessary. If he does not join politics, it will be difficult to save JDU," Nitish's brother-in-law, Anil Kumar, said. "...JDU will be ruined because several 'Ravanas' are sitting within organisation to destroy it."

## 'Sushasan babu' sets tough benchmark for BJP successor

**Patna:** BJP is set to get its first CM in Bihar, but Nitish Kumar's 'Sushasan Babu' image has set a tough benchmark for his successor from the saffron party, reports **Jai Narain Pandey**.

Nitish's decision to quit as CM and enter RS fulfils BJP's long-held desire to have its own CM in Bihar as articulated earlier by deputy CM, Vijay Kumar Sinha, at former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's shradhanjali sabha ahead of the Nov assembly elections.

However, sources say the script was finalised in Delhi before Nitish decided to hang up his boots and opt for a RS berth. This was evident in the way he greeted Union minister Amit Shah at his residence on Thursday, and Shah reciprocated with a bow.

Given Nitish's age — he turned 75 on March 1 — such a transition was expected, but the timing, coming just four months after NDA won a thumping majority under his leadership last Nov, surprised many.

For BJP, the road ahead is challenging. It must retain the caste arithmetic and the crucial EBC-women voter base that Nitish carefully nurtured over the years.

JDU functionary and parliamentary affairs minister, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, noted, "Under Nitish, Bihar has established a new identity of development, good governance and social justice. His work is an inspiration for the country."

Political analysts believe if Nitish launches his son, Nishant, into active politics and makes him deputy CM, it could give opposition fresh ammunition against both him and BJP, since Nitish's politics has long been built on opposing 'parivarvad'.

## JDU cadre bet on Nishant to fill in father's shoes

Kumar Rakesh | TNN

**New Delhi:** Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is a rare regional heavyweight who has been vocal in his disdain of dynastic politics and made it a point to keep his family members, including his only son Nishant, out of any limelight. As politics would have it, Nishant is now being seen by the JDU cadre with keen anticipation to step in to keep the party rooted to its support base as his father moves out of his two-decade long stewardship of Bihar.

**There is a view from the party's base that Nitish's son should be given a key role to convey continuity and readiness for future battles**

As Nishant Kumar appears set to make his political debut, the decision has been driven as much by filial considerations as by political necessity.

Signs of unease in a section of JDU workers over post-Nitish era were visible after a swift turn of events leading to the CM filing his nomination for Rajya Sabha, as some cried, some raised slogans and some toppled furniture and threw plates at the party's Patna headquarters, which was to host a lunch, as it became clear that their 'leader' is set to pass the baton, in all likelihood, to a BJP nominee.

JDU MP, Kaushalendra Kumar, Nitish's choice to represent his home turf of Nalanda in Lok Sabha since 2014, said supporters of the Bihar's longest serving CM are feeling sad. "If Nishant joins politics, they will be feel a little assuaged," he said, emphasising that everyone in the party will finally go by what Nitish says.

Kaushalendra, like Nitish, hails from the Kurmi community, whose members, including legislators of the party, are believed to be propelling the move to bring Nishant into politics.

Several party members have said he will soon be joining politics. While there is no confirmation from the JDU brass on the role to be assigned to the 50-year-old engineering graduate, indications have been given that he will be joining the new Bihar govt as a deputy CM.

With Nitish's stint in Rajya Sabha to begin once the outgoing members retire on April 9, party functionaries said there is a month left to finalise details.

JDU's core support base has traditionally included Kurmis, sections of backward castes and Dalits, and while it has shown signs of fraying for several years, Kurmis remain solidly behind Nitish.

With key confidants of Nitish coming from upper castes, there is a view from the party's base that his son should be given a key role to convey continuity and its readiness for future battles as his father shows signs of withdrawing from the gruelling field of state politics.

## Nitish's tenure will be remembered as 'golden period for Bihar': Shah

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

**Patna:** Nitish Kumar's tenure as CM will be remembered as a 'golden period for Bihar', Union home minister, Amit Shah, said on Thursday.

"Nitish brought Bihar out of 'jungle raj' and worked to give momentum to all aspects of development. He connected roads to villages and made a great contribution to ensuring electricity supply to every household in Bihar..." Shah said. "During his long tenure as an MLA, MP, Union minister, and Bihar CM, he kept a clean image, free of corruption," Shah added.

He accompanied Nitish and BJP president, Nitin Nabin. Nitish, along with RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha, Ram Nath Thakur, and Shivesh Kumar, filed their nomination papers as NDA candidates for the five RS seats from Bihar.

## *Nitish a wily strategist who made CM seat his own*

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** After two decades at the helm of Bihar, Nitish Kumar has finally ceded the seat that he made his own, kicking up a storm of reaction from angry supporters and criticism from the opposition that cited it as another example of BJP "cannibalising" its allies like in Maharashtra.

But Kumar appeared to go quietly, posting on X his desire to work in Parliament.

The aloofness of his departure, as witnessed in his announcement, matched the icy wiliness with which he ensured post-2005 that he stayed in the CM's seat, irrespective of who he went with or which among the allies had more MLAs. After all, it was nothing short of a 'Paltu Ram' act that saw him win a majority to eject Lalu Prasad's RJD from Patna in 2005 before joining hands with RJD and Congress in Bihar. In 2015, as part of "Mahagathbandhan", he humiliated BJP that had just stormed to office in Delhi led by Narendra Modi. He returned to NDA in 2017, then turned to RJD and Congress in 2022, before realigning with BJP in Jan 2024. All this while, he resigned and took oath as CM.

The flip-flops were not just about parties, but also about ideology and players, moving from being a "never-Modi" to a willing partner of the PM. But through his ideological shifts, Kumar carved a niche that had not been witnessed before — as an OBC politician who brought a "Mandal-plus" agenda to the fore in a backward state, and as a strategist who worked to carve a personal constituency for himself. He stood out also for being a rarity—an OBC politician from the north who could govern well, and was not tainted by corruption allegations.

Kumar's equity with voters was on display during the 2025 assembly elections. As his growing gaffes and eccentricities coupled with a prolonged absence from public view led to questions about his mental acuity, the opposition stepped up its campaign that BJP would install its own CM, like it had done in Maharashtra. BJP increased Kumar's campaign rallies and announcements. That is said to have done the trick by reinforcing the "*Jodya* Modi-Nitish *ke hit hoi*" (Modi-Nitish partnership will prevail) message.

**Nitish Kumar carved a niche that had not been witnessed before — as an OBC neta who brought a 'Mandal-plus' agenda to the fore in a backward state, and as a strategist who worked to carve a personal constituency for himself**

On the road to entrenching himself as a satrap, Kumar was helped by the low bar set by his once comrade-in-arms Lalu. He made "clean administration" and "crime" issues that he and BJP hammered on for years to keep rival RJD on the backfoot.

But the real cunning lay in thinking of a strategy to overcome RJD's advantage on caste front in a state that has an overwhelmingly large OBC/Dalit population. This is where Kumar set a template that was later emulated by other states. Hailing from the Kurmi caste of OBCs that has a minuscule population share, Kumar moved with alacrity to fragment the OBC population by categorising them along "developmental" status — backwards and most backwards. He cornered the loyalty of a large chunk of "aspirational" OBC communities, while turning "Yadavisation" into a stick to beat the rival with. The polarisation of "Yadav vs non-Yadavs" sustained him for two decades. Kumar tried the same with "Dalits vs Maha Dalits" but failed as political compulsions forced him to dilute the "Maha Dalit" tag by including stronger communities.

The game changer was when his search for a personal constituency led him to focus on the pan-caste category of "women". From his earliest signalling through reservations in panchayats to bicycles for girls to microfinance loans/self-help groups, to dole for women, the JDU leader fused his "welfarism" with "development" to earn the loyalty of a key voting bloc. Questions remain whether women vote independently from family and caste factors, but it consolidated pro-JDU sections at multiple levels, diluting factors like anti-incumbency.

To successfully create personalised loyalty in the shifting sands of competitive caste politics is a feat that remains unrivalled since Lalu's ejection from the Patna throne.

## Nitish: Bihar now presents new dimension of growth & respect

▶Continued from P 1

Nitish Kumar thanked the people of Bihar. He has served 10 terms as chief minister over roughly two decades, beginning his first full five-year tenure from 2005 to 2010 in alliance with BJP. "You have continuously maintained your trust and support with me, and on the strength of that, we have served Bihar and all of you with complete dedication," Nitish said, adding that Bihar now presents "a new dimension of development and respect".

About an hour before reaching assembly secretariat to submit nomination papers, Nitish confirmed his decision through a message on X. "Since the beginning of my parliamentary life, I had a desire in my heart that I become a member of both Houses of the Bihar legislature as well as both Houses of Parliament. In this sequence, in the elections being held this time, I wish to become a member of the Rajya Sabha," he wrote.

YOU READ IT IN TOI

Son Nishant Set To Join State Govt ■ Dy CM Chaudhary, Jr Union Home Min Rai Among Frontrunners For Top Post

Nitish heads for RS, paves way for BJP CM in Bihar

To File Nomination In Patna Today In Shah's Presence

END OF AN ERA? FROM 10-TIME CM TO UPPER HOUSE

March 5, 2026

Attention inside JDU has also turned to Nitish's son Nishant. Party sources said Nishant is expected to formally join the party on March 8, after which his political role will be decided. Within NDA, discussions have begun over succession in Patna. Sources said Nitish has suggested projecting a Dalit face as next CM or appointing a JDU functionary as deputy CM.

Opposition RJD criticised both Nitish and BJP. RJD working president, Tejashwi Yadav, said BJP had "done a Maharashtra in Bihar". He said: "But Nitish has only himself to blame. While in alliance, we supported him as CM despite having more MLAs, but he chose to walk away on two occasions."

CONTRAPUNTO

My retirement date, every time you ask me that, I'm going to say five years. I don't want to retire

– JAMIE DIMON

# Gas Pain

*Iran war has cut off bulk of India's gas imports. Pain will be felt from kitchens to factories. There's a way out*

It's four days since Qatar, world's third largest LNG exporter, shut down production after an Iranian attack. In one stroke, 20% of world's LNG supply switched off. Qatar said it would need at least a month to resume production, but the way Iran's targeting it – there were multiple explosions over Doha yesterday – it might take longer. That's worrying everyone – gas prices in Europe, for example, rose 54% on Monday. India is especially affected because it gets 40% of its imported LNG from Qatar.

The crisis boils down to price and availability. With contracted supplies unavailable, India must buy in the "spot" market, where prices have hit the roof. Gas that cost $10 a few days ago is now going for $25. Consider how India uses gas, and the problem becomes evident. The biggest share (28%) goes into fertilisers like urea. City gas demand, which includes PNG for kitchens and CNG for cars and buses, comes next, and is growing quickest. Last, gas fuels power plants and industries.

At its current high price, using gas to make electricity doesn't make sense. Fertilisers are vital, but other industries like glass and ceramics cannot ignore energy prices. That leaves city gas, to which govt gives highest importance. Even if all gas imports halt, your kitchen and your car have first claim on India's own gas production, which meets roughly half of yearly demand. But that won't insulate you from high prices, as PNG and CNG suppliers blend their domestic gas quotas with imported gas.

This could hurt your pocket, and if the crisis persists, it might reshape India's auto industry. Last year, for the first time CNG cars outsold diesel cars, taking 21% market share. This is good for air quality, but high CNG prices and even longer queues at pumps will dull demand. There's a parallel crisis of LPG, the older kitchen gas still used by 33cr consumers. India imports 60% of its LPG, mostly from W Asia. So the longer Iran war lasts, the more households will suffer. Unless Centre and states absorb increased costs, which is imprudent.

Right now, it's important to tap other gas suppliers, like Australia and Canada, but long-term, we need to scale up biogas production. India can meet all of its gas needs from agricultural and urban waste. Cattle dung alone can be turned into 39,000 tonnes of gas *daily*. Add 16,000 tonnes from paddy straw *every day*. But we made just 31,000 tonnes of biogas in entire 2024-25. It's a national waste.

# BJP And Babu

*In Bihar, just like in Maha, the party outshone its state outfit ally. But Nitish is still a political presence*

Who'll be CM in Bihar – Nitish Kumar's unsurprising exit will be followed by him joining Rajya Sabha – is not even a blip on the news waves. This is because BJP central command's MO is to appoint party workhorses who have zero name recognition nationally, to positions of power as CMs. Haryana, Odisha, MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh are proof. In fact, even BJP's new party chief started his national career as Nabin Who.

While it's no surprise that Nitish will no longer be CM, the change may have been effected earlier than anticipated. Indications that Nitish's tenth stint would not be full-term were evident during electioneering, his reported state of health one factor.

Nitish's remarkable stint as CM is marked by his dexterity of political re-alignment, having last won an election in 2004 LS polls from Nalanda. He has never contested since, and was sent to Bihar's Vidhan Parishad (upper house) after he became CM for the second time in 2005. Yet, he navigated Bihar's caste politics smartly, created an EBC base, and was among early politicians to champion caste-impact of backward Muslim communities, the Pasmandas. And more than within a withered JDU, which has been but a one-man party, it is this EBC/Pasmanda Muslim base that will eventually see a slow churn, with BJP at the helm – even if in Bihar, Hindutva politics have always ridden on a social justice plank.

BJP is now Big Bro in all big states where it was once junior partner to a regional party. Its electoral victories in Maharashtra and Bihar are evidence of its firm grounding, turfing out the state party it once piggybacked. And yet, even if only for the optics of it, BJP could not avoid giving deputy CMship to Nitish's greenhorn son in "good faith". That's another measure of how much Nitish means to Bihar's politics, even when he's out of it.

# Bare to dare

*From Delhi's AI Summit to Maoris, protesters have put skin in the game*

**Jug Suraiya**

In a demonstration that raised both eyebrows and hackles, some members of Youth Congress gate-crashed the recent AI Summit in Delhi, and as a gesture of protest against issues ranging from what they perceived as an Indo-US trade proposal unfavourable to Indian farmers to growing unemployment among young people, performed a semi-striptease by doffing their shirts. This bare-to-dare demonstration sought to convey that they were getting hot under the collar about many of the govt's policies and priorities and needed to get their grievances off their chests, along with items of clothing.

Some have likened this show of pique by literally losing one's shirt at the powers-that-be to the Mahatma's removal of his top garment of made-in-Britain fabric to launch his homespun charkha movement in an opening gambit eventually to throw off the yoke of oppressive imperialism. Officialdom, however, has denounced the demonstrators saying that those who in public discard their kameez show a lack of tameez, and by taking panga by going nanga have disgraced not only themselves but national honour by their unseemly behaviour in front of distinguished foreign guests.

jugularvein

While losing one's shirt in games of chance or on horse racing tracks is an occupational hazard for punters, metaphorically renouncing the garment in question can help win political brownie points. Juan Perón, who served two terms as President of Argentina, and was the husband of the charismatic Evita of musical fame, owed his rise to power thanks to the backing of the 'descamisados', Spanish for 'the shirtless ones', the hypothetical lack of wardrobe referring to their entrenched poverty as underpaid labourers for the 'estancieros', the large landowners who were the elite of the country.

The AI Summit protesters may or may not have heard of the descamisados, of the 'sans culottes', without knee-breeches, the working-class supporters of the French Revolution who substituted the aristocratic attire of knee-length breeches for ankle-length pantaloons.

Fortunately, however, the shirtless ones at the Summit seemed unfamiliar with the Maori way of showing dissent called 'mooning', which consists of lowering one's nether garment and presenting one's exposed rear in explicit body language summing up a literally bum deal.

# Bombs Can't Build A Republic

*A West Asia researcher who has extensively travelled in Iran writes that many Iranians detest the ayatollahs, but are also proud of their Persian heritage. Attacks on Iran may produce a popular nationalist response, not a revolution against clerics*

**Fabricio Vitorino**

Khamenei, killed in US strikes, had been supreme leader for over 35 years. His son Mojtaba has emerged as the top contender to succeed him, but forces within Iran's elite could ignite a power struggle lasting months. Meanwhile, the bloc that positioned itself as an alternative to Western unipolarity has been conspicuously absent. Has anyone heard of a Brics mediation initiative?

Trump's statement: "When we are finished, take over your govt. It will be yours to take. This will probably be your only chance for generations," was extraordinary, coming from a sitting president. One that forces a question Brics communiques never ask: What kind of Iran might emerge from the rubble, and would it serve anyone's interests, including Iran's own?

For 25 years, I've often been in West Asia, understanding – as in Israel or Saudi Arabia – the multiple perspectives held by Iranians, often marked by deep divisions, nothing close to the monolith Western media frequently portrays.

In 2000s, presidents Khatami, Ahmadinejad and Rouhani each attempted, in their different ways, to reshape Iranian governance. All three collided with the same wall: a state within a state, in which the supreme leader commands the armed forces, IRGC, judiciary and state TV, holding veto power over foreign and nuclear policy. Ayatollah was never elected. For Iranians, that contradiction became the defining frustration of their political lives.

It's often said the Revolution was meant to show the world Persia carried greatness and democracy at its core, that the two were complements rather than opposites. But the 1980-88 war against Iraq left wounds the West fails to see. The Islamic dimension gradually overwhelmed the political landscape, pulling a once-progressive Iran towards a fundamentalist posture, in stark contrast to the vision held by a large portion of its own population. Those inside this system-within-system exalted it. Those outside learned to endure it.

Take the Iranian volleyball teams competing in the 2010s. The sport had become a national passion, only for women to be banned from stadiums. Western women reporters were barred from the courts. The ban caught even Rouhani's govt offguard. Iranians never wished for an authoritarian, Islamic-based regime. An Iranian colleague of mine recently told me, "We will never just accept things as they are. We are Persians. We are not like the Russians, and our govt is not like Putin." That civilisational argument is the reason why regime change imposed from outside tends to produce the opposite of what its architects promise.

**Two models, one region** | It's common to compare Iran and Saudi Arabia, West Asia's Shia and Sunni poles, two authoritarian states shaped by external pressure and sitting atop comparable hydrocarbon wealth. Saudi Arabia's oil reserves are between 25% and 30% more than Iran's reserves. Iran's population exceeds 90mn versus Saudi Arabia's 35mn.

Riyadh eventually calculated that survival required adaptation: Vision 2030, soft power, a seat at every table. Tehran's regime – forged by the Revolution and war against Saddam's Iraq, which was backed by the West and fought with chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers – chose permanent confrontation as its organising principle.

The Iraq war killed or wounded over half a million and

embedded a siege mentality into the Islamic Republic's DNA that no external bomb will dissolve. IRGC, revolutionary guardian and embedded economic oligarchy, and the only body with real authority to negotiate a transition from strength, becomes the decisive variable.

**Phantom bloc Brics** | Iran became a full Brics member in Jan 2024. When the bloc gathered in Rio de Janeiro last July to condemn the earlier round of US-Israeli strikes on Iran as violation of international law, it was hailed as a diplomatic signal from Global South. The final statement, however, named neither US nor Israel.

*The Guardian* reported on Mar 1 that the trade-weighted dollar has lost around 7% of its value over the past year, a structural shift Brics countries have long sought to accelerate. But currency trends move through markets. Peace requires someone willing to pick up the phone, propose terms and absorb political costs. On that front, the bloc has offered nothing.

Brazil and India carry genuine mediating credentials, and both have historical relationships with Tehran to make such an effort credible. India used to import Iranian crude and was building the North-South Transport Corridor through Iranian territory.

Yet the diplomatic space available to both countries is severely constrained by the bloc's current composition. Russia is at war in Ukraine. Iran is under direct attack. China is pressing its coercive agenda on Taiwan. India's military is engaged with Pakistan. Intended as a credential, the Brics label has become a complication. Moscow and Beijing invoke the bloc when it amplifies their interests; Brazil and India absorb the reputational cost.

**Windows bombs can't open** | Argument against Trump's strikes is no defence of the Islamic Republic. A state that represses women, executes dissidents and subordinates national development to ideological confrontation encoded in its own doctrine – including the call for destruction of Israel – has failed large portions of its own people.

That failure, however, belongs to Iranians to correct. Saudi Arabia offers the relevant precedent: it did not liberalise because it was bombed. Change came, partially and imperfectly, because its own leadership concluded that adaptation was the price of survival.

Iran has a larger educated population, a democratic tradition written into its constitution, and a civil society that endured 47 years of repression without disappearing. Those assets belong to Iranians, and only they can convert them into a republic.

What bombs reliably produce, as Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan across two decades have demonstrated, is not democracy but nationalism. Populations that might have welcomed change on their own terms unite against the foreign hand that tried to force it.

Iranians, resentful of the clerical grip but proud of Persian civilisation, would be the first casualties of that dynamic. Trump's strikes may fracture the regime but risk igniting exactly the nationalist fervour that has historically made new republics impossible to build. Brics, for all its failures of nerve, at least understood that. It simply lacked the courage to act on it.

Trump's bombs may end a regime. They will not build a republic.

*The writer is a doctoral researcher in international relations at UFSC, a Brazilian university*

# 'India is producing many AI developers but very few research engineers and frontier scientists...that's a problem'

***Balaraman Ravindran** wears many AI hats – on UN's international scientific panel for AI governance & standard setting, chair of GOI's drafting committee for India's AI governance guidelines, head of Wadhwani School of Data Science & AI at IIT Madras. He tells **Vaitheeswaran B** that focus should be on delivering tangible outcomes, including shareable algorithms and tools to ensure AI systems are trustworthy.*

Q&A

**● Where does India stand in AI development?**

Foundation models are not the right primary metric for India right now. That said, India has promising signs of innovation in smaller, frugal innovation. Not necessarily at the level of building the next foundation model, but cutting-edge research and putting that out as new tools and solutions for building products.

Companies like Sarvam have demonstrated strong performance by picking the right problems, India-specific tasks. They didn't build a large model but trained from scratch with curated data rather than merely fine-tune existing models. India is doing okay with many AI applications and adoption.

However, claims that India has among the most AI developers are self-congratulatory. India lacks enough people who can do hardcore AI work – training models from scratch, improving training efficiency, and working at the hardware-AI interface.

**● How do we fix this?**

We do not have the resources to do research. When compute is scarce, universities reserve it for publishable work and PhD output. That is why we are producing many AI developers but far fewer research engineers and frontier scientists. We also have to nurture a builder mindset through hands-on work. At the same time, industry and venture capitalists should be willing to take longer bets in AI. We still do not see that happening in India.

**● What should be India's policy priority?**

India should put serious effort and capital into attracting talent, including diaspora talent. Investment and talent go together. Competing with US or China requires a systematic plan and building world-class facilities. If India were to make a large block of computing available and clearly assign it to four or five institutions, that signals researchers who currently struggle for access elsewhere. But the announcement has to be backed by long-term investment.

We also need to build local talent and local market that can benefit from such availability of compute. We should systematically work on that. Increase investment in teaching, skilling and research. Increase incentives for investors in AI. Encourage long-term investments. Compute infra should be directed at bringing deployment costs down and not blindly follow Western models.

**● Can tax holidays to cloud providers help?**

Building large amounts of compute capacity in India is sensible if we want data to be governed here and models to run under Indian rules. Without domestic infra, any restriction on data leaving the country becomes hard to enforce.

Demand for access to Indian data might itself have been a strong incentive. That said, once serious infra exists, it can draw in people. Researchers go where resources are. Companies that want to train on Indian data may also base teams here and serve global markets from here.

**● India was the first in Global South to host the AI Impact Summit.**

Yes. We made sure AI conversation included Global South meaningfully. Because they are the ones who will be significantly impacted by decisions of the bigger companies and countries' AI policies.

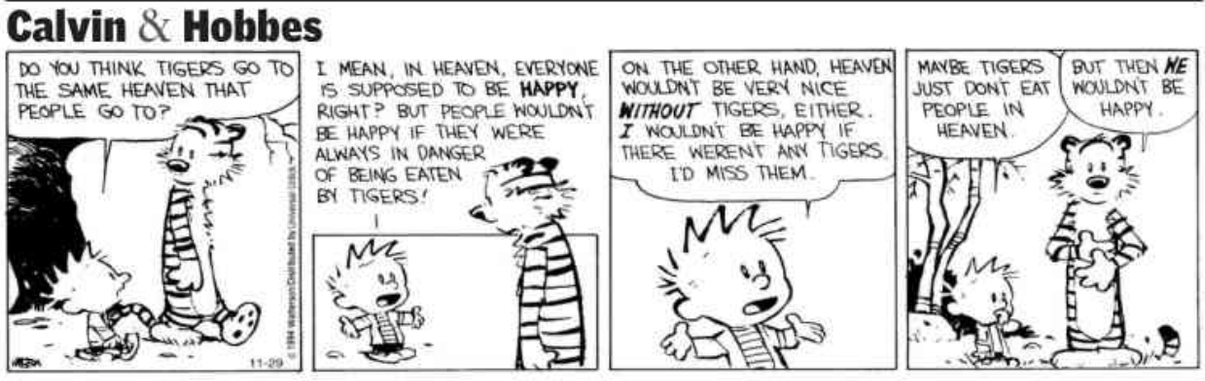
We identified successful use cases in Global South and built a repository. This will facilitate knowledge sharing. We also put together tools to help test and ensure trustworthiness of the AI system. This will enable developers to build trusted, deployable solutions, especially in countries with lower technological resources and capabilities.

**● What about global AI governance coordination?**

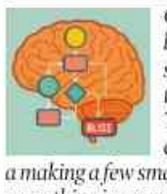
India is very actively involved in Ltd 30 – Limited Members Group of about 30 countries involved in discussions on frontier AI safety and standards cooperation. There are several multilateral efforts for governance, but one challenge is that majority of people are not involved.

India brought Global South into the dialogue and built richer cross-border regulation. Each country must discuss capacity building, skilling, rights, bias, explainability, safety, transparency, etc, in the context of its own society, culture and priorities.

## Calvin & Hobbes


DO YOU THINK TIGERS GO TO THE SAME HEAVEN THAT PEOPLE GO TO?
I MEAN, IN HEAVEN, EVERYONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY, RIGHT? BUT PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE HAPPY IF THEY WERE ALWAYS IN DANGER OF BEING EATEN BY TIGERS!
ON THE OTHER HAND, HEAVEN WOULDN'T BE VERY NICE WITHOUT TIGERS, EITHER. I WOULDN'T BE HAPPY IF THERE WEREN'T ANY TIGERS. I'D MISS THEM.
MAYBE TIGERS JUST DON'T EAT PEOPLE IN HEAVEN.
BUT THEN ME WOULDN'T BE HAPPY.

## Sacredspace



*Greatness comes by doing a few small and smart things each day. Taking little steps, consistently, from a making a few small chips against everything in your professional and personal life that is ordinary, so that a day eventually arrives when all that's left is Extraordinary.*

**Robin S Sharma**

# Why Jensen Huang Isn't That Smart About 'Smartness'

**Sonal Srivastava**

Jensen Huang is a smart man, one of the smartest out there. As CEO of the world's largest company by market capitalisation, he has to be. In a podcast last month, replying to a question on who was the smartest person he ever met, Huang defined 'smart' as 'somebody who's intelligent, solves problems, technical', a definition he finds to be a 'commodity'.

He elaborated on his personal definition of smart: 'someone who sits at that intersection of being technically astute but human empathy and having the ability to infer the unspoken, the around the corners, the unknowables'. But by tying 'smartness' too tightly to the *technical* side, making 'smart' an algorithm, Huang got it wrong.

Who is smarter: someone who reduces the connotation of smartness to mechanical processes for material gains? Or someone who intuits workings of natural order, and understands that much of what we see today will not last forever – quite like the Guns N' Roses song 'November Rain'?

*Nothin' lasts forever / And we both know hearts can change*

While the song is about unrequited love and heartbreak, it's also a reminder of the temporality of life, and by extension, of technology that makes our lives easier. So, Huang's notion of 'smart' is reductionist – reducing and conflating words like 'technically astute', 'empathy' and 'ability to infer the unspoken'.

Smartness can't be reduced to number-crunching, programming, or predictive analysis. The term 'technology', in its dictionary sense, refers to methods, systems, and devices that are the result of scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes. Connotations of 'technology' cannot be limited to wires, motherboards, LED screens, and Wi-Fi routers. Technical systems – and methods used to arrive at them – can help us better understand both knowledge within our reach and systems beyond our ken.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Take 'algorithm'. It comes from the Latinisation of 9th-c Persian mathematician Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's name. An algorithm was – and still is – a system. But somewhere along the way, the word was reduced to mean a *computational* system, a 'computer algorithm', a narrow description of a term that can expand to mean a flawless system – a sequence that must work so perfectly that if you alter even a single step, the whole collapses in the material realm.

And then there is the Great Beyond, which can be known only through the algorithm of bliss, the outcome of which is the realisation of Sat-Chit-Anand, Truth-Consciousness-Bliss. The term 'technology' does not belong merely to the material realm. Technological systems, a spiritual Wi-Fi of sorts, can apply to consciousness, too. In that sense, Vedanta is an *algorithm* of consciousness. It is foundational BlissTech that carries us to the Great Beyond. The Upanishads and Gita are, in fact, manuals of this BlissTech, detailing methods that can enable Self-realisation.

The modern world equates intelligence with information density and analysis. Vedanta equates intelligence with moksh, liberation and eventual attainment of Brahmn. The unity of jivatman and Paramatman. Gita speaks of Kshetra and Kshetrajna. Krishna says, 'This body, Arjun, is termed as the Field (kshetra) and he who knows it is called the knower of the Field (kshetrajna) by sages.'

The algorithm of awareness bridges kshetra and kshetrajna, just as a circuit board connects all the hardware inside a computer. And while mechanical devices come and go, algorithm of bliss will remain unchanged. This is a reminder that technology is any precise system that transforms input into output. BlissTech transforms ignorance into clarity and individual self into the realised Self. That's what smart is, Jensen.

Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is gearing up to launch Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket. The startup is hoping to become a key player in the niche launch segment. But the ultimate aim is to enable space travel for all

A model of the Vikram-1 rocket at the Skyroot HQ in Hyderabad

# Readying India's first pvt rocket, with eye on building 'cabs' for space

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As he's talking up future plans for one of India's pioneering space startups, Pawan Kumar Chandana, the co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace, employs an analogy that's unexpectedly, and literally, grounded. "Think of SpaceX as a transcontinental train or an A380. We're aiming to become the cab or business jet that drops you at a specific slot in a unique orbit in space with our smaller rockets," he says.

It's a reference intended to pinpoint where the company sees itself in the vastness, and vast potential, of space operations. The baby steps have been taken with the sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, which Skyroot launched successfully in Nov 2022 on its very first attempt, a feat that even Elon Musk's SpaceX could not achieve. That distinction burnishes credentials for a company looking for a foothold in the space game even as Chandana's clear that it's not aiming at competition with the space giants.

What it's aiming for is a slice of the market that most spacetech giants ignore or don't cater to — the dedicated launch market or the bespoke, door-to-door missions. The analogy of the train is deployed once again. "The market for train is different and that for cab is different. SpaceX and all other companies go to some specific orbits, collate all the customers and launch them. It's a very large market. But we want to address a different niche in the market where people have unique requirements," he says.

The vehicle for those ambitions is already at the launchpad, at least the major bits of it with the rest to follow not much later. The starting point for India's first private orbital rocket launch is a sprawling, high-ceilinged assembly hall just a stone's throw away from the busy international airport at Shamshabad. Known as Max-Q, it's Skyroot Aerospace's headquarters and the place where the seven-storeyed (75-feet) Vikram-1, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme, is coming together. The rocket has a payload carrying capacity of around 300kg. but in the first orbital mission the payload may be just half that.

The blast-off is expected to happen soon, but Chandana is tightlipped. All he will say is that three stages (Kalam-1200, Kalam-250 and Kalam-125), filled with solid propellant, are already at the launch site at Sriharikota. The rest of the sections — which have a lot of electronics and software — are going through tests in Hyderabad as they gear up to be shipped via specially fitted trucks to the launch site.

"The topmost stage, which is the orbit adjustment module (OAM) equipped with the 3D-printed liquid engine Raman-2, and the other interstages housing all the avionics are undergoing final integration checks. Hopefully, within weeks, we can move them to the launch site," Chandana said. The slot for launch, he adds, will be announced after it is formally assigned.

## Affordability, Accessibility

Being a space startup is different from being a national space programme — budgets, resources, and timelines are tighter, margins of error smaller. The company has raised close to $100 million in funding so far, with some reports indicating that it could emerge as India's first spacetech unicorn (valuation of over $1 billion) whenever it heads into its next round of funding. But the output is not about inflows.

"To start with we chose to build a smaller rocket that has a very niche market rather than a bigger rocket that caters to the mass market but requires large capital. We will eventually build big rockets but we are taking our initial steps with a niche, growing market as there are very few companies in the world who are doing this," he says. Even though the tone is measured, the scale of Skyroot's ambition is nothing short of universal. 'Opening Space for All', Chandana points out, is the company's motto.

While a lot hinges on the success of Vikram-1, Skyroot has already laid the groundwork for its mission by prioritising affordability and accessibility. Founded in 2018 by Chandana, now 35, and Naga Bharath Daka, 36, both former ISRO engineers, the company has been steadily working towards developing and launching on-demand rockets for small satellites. With the IIT-Madras incubated Agnikul Cosmos also gearing up to launch its first orbital rocket, christened Agnibaan — it successfully launched its sub-orbital tech demonstrator, Agnibaan SOrTeD, in May 2024 — India's private space players are looking set to make waves.

Skyroot uses advanced carbon fibre structures and 3D-printed engines (liquid stage) to propel their Vikram series of launch vehicles. And it has also achieved another critical milestone — setting up their Infinity Campus, also near the airport, last year, which will allow them to get one Vikram-class rocket out of the door every month.

"Hopefully, we want to reach that cadence next year," says Chandana. While Vikram-1 will take to the skies from Isro's Satish Dhawan centre at Sriharikota, Skyroot is looking to conduct subsequent launches from Kulasekarapattinam, where Isro's private rocket launch pad is expected to be ready by March-end. Eventually, the plan is to have Skyroot's own launch pad (either at Sriharikota or Kulasekarapattinam) as business grows, indicates Pawan.

The business side is shaping up through MoUs with players such as French newspace operator Promethee to launch its satellite constellation ('newspace' is a reference to the private enterprise-led space sector), and German satellite aggregator Exolaunch for deploying their satellites on Vikram-1. Skyroot has also inked MoUs with Indian spacetech startups like Dhruva Space and Bellatrix Aerospace.

But timelines can be tricky when it comes to space. The company had originally aimed for a 2024 launch timeframe and, more recently, a Q1 2026 timeframe, but section-level testing and the time required to interconnect systems is taking longer than expected. The ultimate goal, however, remains the same: to make human space travel as affordable as air travel. That mission, Chandana says, is very much on track. "In future, we will build reusable rockets that will be much bigger. That is our aspiration before the end of the decade. It's already on the drawing board."

### VIKRAM-1 AT A GLANCE

- Vikram-1 is set for its first launch this year from Andhra's Sriharikota
- The rocket has an all-carbon composite structure, uses solid fuel boosters & 3D-printed liquid engine
- It can carry satellites of around 300kg to space, though the first mission may have a payload half that weight

### HOW THEY COMPARE

# When 7 Rays Hit Cinemas In Land Of Rising Sun

Yuka Okuda, a Rabindrasangeet performer, delivers a talk on Ray's 'Charulata'. (Below) A Tokyo theatre that took part in the retrospective

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All seats look taken in a medium-sized Tokyo theatre on an Aug evening in the Japanese summer. The audience listens rapt to a woman sitting on stage, framed by the movie screen behind her. Clearly, it's not just another screening, but then, neither can the topic be called usual for this part of the world. For the woman on stage is discussing Rabindrasangeet, and the context is 'Charulata', maestro and auteur Satyajit Ray's 1964 masterpiece, one of the seven films that were shown last year in Japan as part of a retrospective of his works.

The lineup — featuring 'Jalsaghar' (1958), 'Mahanagar' (1963), 'Charulata' (1964), 'Kapurush', 'Mahapurush' (both 1965), 'Nayak' (1966), and 'Jai Baba Felunath (1979) — earning their first theatrical release in Japan, spans a two-decade arc of some of Ray's most memorable films. The films were also made available on VOD and home video with Japanese subtitles. The demand has grown to the point that these films are set for a Blu-ray release in March.

To Sandip Ray, filmmaker and Ray's son, however, none of this is surprising. After all, it was the Japanese film great Akira Kurosawa who'd said, "Not to have seen the cinema of Satyajit Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon." Sitting in his Lake Temple Road residence in Kolkata, he recalled the role of a Japanese distributor, Toho-Towa Co. Ltd, founded in 1928 by film pioneer Nagamasa Kawakita, and said Kawakita's wife, Kashiko Kawakita, was a Ray admirer.

"She was very close to our family and a die-hard Satyajit follower right from the start," he said.

When Ray first visited Japan, it was Kashiko who arranged a meeting between Ray and Kurosawa in 1966. "I think till the 80s, they distributed all of Baba's films in Japan. The films must have done good business. Otherwise, why would she ask about new films every year?" said Sandip Ray.

The seven restored titles began their theatrical run on July 25 at Le Cinema Bunkamura in Tokyo. The retrospective was to run for three weeks, but a further week was added due to the demand. "The films were not only screened in Tokyo, but in cities like Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, etc, covering 15-20 cinemas nationwide," said Varsha Bansal, who helmed the restorations of the Ray classics produced by her grandfather, RD Bansal.

The screenings were paired with discussions and talks. If film researcher and producer Eri Morinaga spoke after 'Mahanagar', Asian cinema researcher Tamaki Matsuoka delivered a talk following a screening of 'Jalsaghar'. Yuka Okuda, a Rabindrasangeet performer and Bengali language instructor, led a session after a 'Charulata' screening. "I offered some reflections on the impact of the Rabindrasangeet in the film... Some in the audience said they wanted to watch the film again. It made us realise all the more that Ray's cinema is a deeply layered and magnificent creation," Okuda told **TOI**.

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(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
**Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban**
Plot No. : 3/C, LA-Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106

**Employment Notification No. WBPDCL/Recruitment/2026/02**

**WALK-IN INTERVIEW**

WBPDCL intends to engage experienced professionals in the following position on **contractual basis** through **Walk-In Interview** for its Corporate Office in Kolkata, West Bengal.

**01. Senior Machine Learning Engineer : 01 no.**

**Walk-In Interviews shall be held on 12.03.2026 (Thursday) from 12.00 noon to 02.00 p.m. at Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan**, Block- LA, Plot No.-3/C, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106. Details of the Notification and prescribed format of application are available in the WBPDCL website **www.wbpdcl.co.in**

**INDIAN SHIP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**
**INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY**
(A Central University Under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways)
Gandhigram-Visakhapatnam-530005

Advt. No/ISTC/R/Contract/2026/001 — 05th March 2026

**Contract Engagement**

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following posts on Contract basis at Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC):

| Sl. No | Name of the Post | No. of Posts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Project Engineer (Consultancy) | 1 |
| 2. | Project Engineer (Data Centre) | 1 |
| 3. | Project Officer (Training) | 1 |

**For further details regarding the eligibility criteria i.e.**, Age, Education Qualifications, Experience, etc. and submission of application, please visit **www.imu.edu.in & www.imuv.edu.in**

**Centre Director (I/c)**

**दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय**
**DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**
**Established by Govt. of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009**
**(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)**
**Shahbad Daulatpur, Bawana Road-Delhi-110042**

**12th Convocation**
**(March, 11, 2026)**

The 12th convocation of Delhi Technological University is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March, 11, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. in BR Ambedkar Auditorium, DTU for the award of degrees to all graduates who have completed all the formalities and have become eligible for conferment of degrees in the Academic Year 2024-25. All UG and PG students are cordially invited to attend the Convocation ceremony. The recipients of Ph.D. degrees and Gold Medals in various UG & PG programmes shall be awarded degrees during the Convocation ceremony in the Hall.

The students who are willing to attend the Convocation Ceremony in person should register online at **http://www.convocation.dtu.ac.in.** (Till 03.00 PM, 09th March 2026) For further details, please visit the University **website:- www.dtu.ac.in.**

**Sd/-**
**Registrar**

**KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street,
Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/WMC-1/205/TMC/MSW/2020/2025-26/5272 — Date:05.03.2026

**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**

Town Municipal Council, Bidadi has proposed to set up Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Processing and Disposal Facility (SWMP & DF) of capacity 18 TPD at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

As Per Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SLEIAA), Karnataka and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) process. As per the Terms of Reference letter No. SEIAA 08 IND 2025, dated: 24.02.2025 of State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority - Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated: **01.08.2025,** the EPH is scheduled on **08.04.2026.**

**The details of the proposed new project are as follows:**

**1. Name of the local body & Address :** Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Bidadi, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

**2. Proposed location of the project :** Sy. No. 166, Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

**3. Details of project proposed :** Proposed setting up of Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Processing and Disposal Facility (SWMP & DF) of capacity 18 TPD at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

**4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing : 8th April 2026 Wednesday at 12.30 PM at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.**

**5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are : (a)** Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru South District. **(b)** Chief Executive Officer, Office of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Bhavan, Ramanagara-562159 **(c)** District Industries Centre, Bengaluru South District. **(d)** Taluk Panchayath Office, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. **(e)** Tahasildar Office, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. **(f)** Town Municipal Council, Bidadi, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. **(g)** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer-Ramanagara, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, No. 62/5, Vaderahalli, Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, Near DC Office, Ramanagara–562159. **(h)** Office of the Regional Office, Kamataka State Pollution Control Board, Ramanagara, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, No. 62/5, Vaderahalli, Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, Near DC Office, Ramanagara–562159. **(i)** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 034. **(j)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

**NOTE:** Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru South District). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **http://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
**Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban**
Plot No. : 3/C, LA-Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106

**Employment Notification No. WBPDCL/Recruitment/2026/01**

**WALK-IN INTERVIEW**

WBPDCL intends to engage experienced professionals in the following positions on **contractual basis** through **Walk-In Interview** for its Power Plants / Projects / Coal Mines spread across West Bengal & Jharkhand.

**01. Chief Executive (Security) : 02 nos.**
**02. Senior Executive (Security : 03 nos.**

**Walk-In Interviews shall be held on 12.03.2026 (Thursday) from 11.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m. at Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan**, Block- LA, Plot No.-3/C, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106. Details of the Notification and prescribed format of application are available in the WBPDCL website **www.wbpdcl.co.in**

**राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय**
(राष्ट्रीय महत्त्व का संस्थान, गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
**National Forensic Sciences University**
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**APPLICATION INVITED**

National Forensic Sciences University, Sector-9, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382007 invites Application for contractual engagement in the prescribed format from the eligible candidates for below-mentioned Posts, Purely on a temporary basis for NFSU-ED Project.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Post | Monthly Remuneration | Engagement Period | No. of Posts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Reporting Officer (CONTRACTUAL) | Rs.1,00,000/- (With 10% increase every year) | Initially for 1 Year (Extendable to another 4 years subject to project requirement) | 02 |
| 2 | Scientific Assistant (CONTRACTUAL) | Rs.70,000/- (With 10% increase every year) | Initially for 1 Year (Extendable to another 4 years subject to project requirement) | 03 |

Interested candidates are informed to refer University website **www.nfsu.ac.in** for eligibility criteria, application form and other related details. Application form can be downloaded from our website and application should reach the Project Head on the closing date 24, March 2026 at 18:00 hrs.

**Sd/-**
**Executive Registrar**

**KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road),
Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Email: eecontractksphc@gmail.com Website: www.ksphc.org

**No: EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/11/2025-26/476** — **Date: 05.03.2026**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.

**01** Construction of 24 PC Quarters at Koratagere in Tumkur District on Lumpsum Turnkey Basis-Conventional method of Construction (Framed Structure) (G+2) Floors.

**02** Construction of 24 PC Quarters at Madhugiri in Tumkur District on Lumpsum Turnkey Basis-Conventional method of Construction(Framed Structure)(G+2)Floors.

**03** Construction of Superintendent of Police Residence in Tumkur City.

**04** Construction of 2-Bay Fire Stations at Bidadi Indutrial Area in Bangalore South Ramanagara District.

**05** Additional works for Command Control Centre & Integrated Support Centre for Women & Child at Bengaluru.

**06** Construction of Open Jail for 75 Nos. Prisoners with Barrack and Kitchen Building at Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District.

**07** Construction of 50Nos Capacity New Taluk Jail at Tipturu in Tumkur District

**08** Providing Roof Top Sheet for Police Quarters D-19 to D-26 (2 Nos of 4PC Blocks) at DAR Ramanahalli, Chikkamagaluru District.

**09** Providing Roof Top Sheet for Police Quarters F-2 to F-25 (3 Nos of 4PC Blocks & 2Nos of 6 PC Blocks) at DAR Ramanahalli, Chikkamagaluru District.

**10** Providing Truss work and sheet roofing for Existing flag post at Polio. Training school Aimangala in Hiriyur Taluk,Chitradurga.

Interested eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPPP from **09.03.2026 onwards.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons."

**Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the Tender will be updated only on KPPP.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer - Contracts**

DIPR/CP/YC/6019/2025-26

**NOTIFICATION**

**Notification** for selection to the position of Executive Vice President Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment published and the details are available on the following Websites of Kerala State Planning Board **(www.spb.kerala.gov.in)**, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment **(www.kecste.kerala.gov.in)** and Government of Kerala **(https://kerala.gov.in)**.

RO No. 0378/2026

**TELANGANA TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION LTD.**
(Formerly TSTPC Ltd) (An Undertaking of Government of Telangana)
Regd. Off.: 5-10-174, Shakkar Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500 004. Telangana, India.
Tel : +91 040-23237591, Email: info@tgtpc.org, https://tgtpc.telangana.gov.in CIN: U74991TG2014SGC095847

TGTPC/TENDER/GOVT/CONV/2026, — Date.05.03.2026.

**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

(Through e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana only)

Telangana Trade Promotion Corporation Ltd, Hyderabad invites e-Tenders from reputed Conversion Units for manufacture of exercise note books for Government Welfare Departments/ institutions for the year 2026-27. Tenders can be viewed and downloaded from the Website: https://tender.telangana.gov.in **(Tender ID:684200)** from 11.00 AM onwards on 06.03.2026 and last date & time for submission of tenders: 1.00.PM on 16.03.2026 for further details can be had from TGTPC Office during working hours. Mobile No.9110505855.

DIPR R.O.No.1240-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:05.03.2026 — **Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

| Tender No. | Nature of Work | Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/NIC website | Due date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 252613 007567 | Procurement of 2,000 MT ± 5% Office Waste Paper (White Records) in Bale form from Karnataka for TNPL Unit - I at Kagithapuram. | 23.03.2026 | 31.03.2026 |
| 252613 007568 | Procurement of 1,000 MT ± 5% Office Waste Paper (White Records) in Bale form from Karnataka for TNPL Unit - I at Kagithapuram. | 22.05.2026 | 30.05.2026 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1066/Tender/2026 — *TNPL – Maker of Bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

6001/27/2526

**The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited**
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com

**E-Tender**

OMFED invites e-Tender from reputed Manufacturing Units/ Traders / Suppliers for supply of Stainless Steel Milk can of 5-liter capacity. Stainless Steel Milk can 40-liter capacity & Alu Milk can 40 Liter capacity. The e-tender is invited on-line through 'e'-procurement of Govt. of Odisha web Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **http://www.omfed.com**.The Bid documents will be available in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from 10.00 AM of 03.03.2026 to 02.00 PM of 23.03.2026. The Techno-commercial Bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM. of 24.03.2026 at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
**Managing Director**
OIPR-6001/6063/1/25-26/0019

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Ahmedabad-380006

**COMMERCIAL PLOT AT L P SAVANI ROAD, ADAJAN, SURAT FOR SALE (under SARFAESI)**

**Reserve Price : Rs. 76.15 Cr**

**Commercial Plot (Wonder 7) :** TP Scheme 31, Part 1, Final Plot No. 54, Area 5199 Sq Mts and Part -2 Final Plot No. 53 @ L P Savani Road, Surat. Area 1795 Sq Mts. **Total area of the land 6994 Sq.Mts**
**Auction Date : 16.03.2026**
**(Physical Possession with SBI)**

For More Details Please contact or SCAN : Phone No.: 9824275526, 9440780127

Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

COUNTRIES AFFECTED IN WEST ASIA AND BEYOND...
Iran war has ricocheted across the region and beyond, with nearly every country in West Asia sustaining damage from missile hits, drone strikes or shrapnel, many reporting casualties, and key embassies, economic engines and passageways closing down.
Source: AP

**A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF THE IMPACT DO FAR**

**IRAN**
Casualties | At least **1,045** people
Damage | Nuclear infrastructure, missile launchers, govt buildings in Tehran, residential areas damaged
Airspace | **Closed**

**ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**
Casualties **11** civilians
Damage | Synagogue & public shelter in Beit Shemesh, building in Tel Aviv, road in Jerusalem
Airspace | **Closed**

**LEBANON**
Casualties **77** people
Damage | At least **84,000** displaced
Airspace | **Partially open, flights cancelled**

**KUWAIT**
Casualties **8** (incl. 6 US soldiers)
Damage | US embassy hit
Airspace | **Closed**

**UAE**
Casualties **3** foreign workers killed
Damage | US consulate hit, airport & hotels targeted
Airspace | **Partially closed**

A burning aircraft falls from the sky in Al Jahra, Kuwait

**EGYPT**
Damage | Shipping rerouted from Suez Canal
Airspace | **Open**

**TURKIYE**
Casualties | None
Damage | NATO defence intercepted ballistic missile

**CYPRUS**
British military base attacked

**IRAQ**
Casualties | Militia deaths
Damage | Drones hit sites near US consulate
Airspace | **Closed**

**JORDAN**
Damage | 5 injured by falling shrapnel
Airspace | **Open, flights cancelled**

**SAUDI ARABIA**
Damage | US embassy in Riyadh struck, Ras Tanura refinery hit
Airspace | **Partially closed**

**BAHRAIN**
Casualties **1** civilian
Damage | Drone attack near Amazon data centre
Airspace | **Closed**

**QATAR**
Damage | Energy facilities hit
Airspace | **Closed**

**OMAN**
Casualties **1** Indian mariner
Damage | Vessel hit in Gulf of Oman, Salalah & Duqm ports hit
Airspace | **Open, flights cancelled**

**SYRIA**
Damage | Injuries from Iranian missile debris near Damascus
Airspace | **Closed**

**INDIAN OCEAN**
Casualties **87** killed, **61** missing
Damage | US submarine sank Iranian warship near Sri Lanka

# Trump says want role in picking Iran's supreme leader, rejects Khamenei son

## US Will Bitterly Regret Torpedoing Warship In Indian Ocean, Warns Iran

**Dubai:** US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he should be involved in choosing Iran's next supreme leader as the US and Israel hammered the country for a sixth day. Iran kept up its retaliatory attacks on Israel, American bases and countries around the region.

Speaking to Axios, Trump said, "I have to be involved in the appointment" of Khamenei's successor, and that the late leader's 56-year-old son "is unacceptable to me," and "a light weight." "We want someone who will bring harmony and peace to Iran," Trump said. "I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delcy in Venezuela," said Trump, referring to its acting president. His comments were likely to renew questions about whether the US and Israel seek the overthrow of the Islamic Republic or just a change in policies.

The war has meanwhile escalated each day, affecting an additional 14 countries across West Asia and beyond. Iran has said the US will "bitterly regret" torpedoing an Iranian warship near Sri Lanka. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi accused the US of committing an "an atrocity at sea" for sinking the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena. "Mark my words: The US will come to bitterly regret (the) precedent it has set," he said.

Israel issued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Lebanon's Iran-allied Hezbollah militants. UN peacekeepers reported ground combat in southern Lebanon as more Israeli troops crossed the border.

An Iranian cleric called for the shedding of Israeli and "Trump's blood." The statement from Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli was a rare call for violence by an ayatollah, one of the highest ranks within the clergy of Shia Islam.

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday that the leader of the Iranian covert unit that planned to assassinate President Trump in 2024 had been killed in Iran. The Pentagon provided few details, but the Trump administration has said that Iran's plotting to kill US officials is one reason the US launched its bombing campaign. Hegseth also acknowledged that some Iranian air attacks may still hit their targets as he asserted that US military superiority is giving it control of Iran's airspace. "This does not mean we can stop everything, but we ensured that the maximum defence and force protection was set up before we went on offensive," he said. AP

## WHY TRUMP WANTS TO DESTROY IRAN'S NAVY

*While Iran's nuclear and missile programmes have dominated conversations about its military capabilities, the US and its allies in the region have also long considered its naval forces a serious threat because of their ability to disrupt trade and energy supplies from the Persian Gulf region*

**WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT IRAN'S NAVAL FORCES**

Iran has two navies

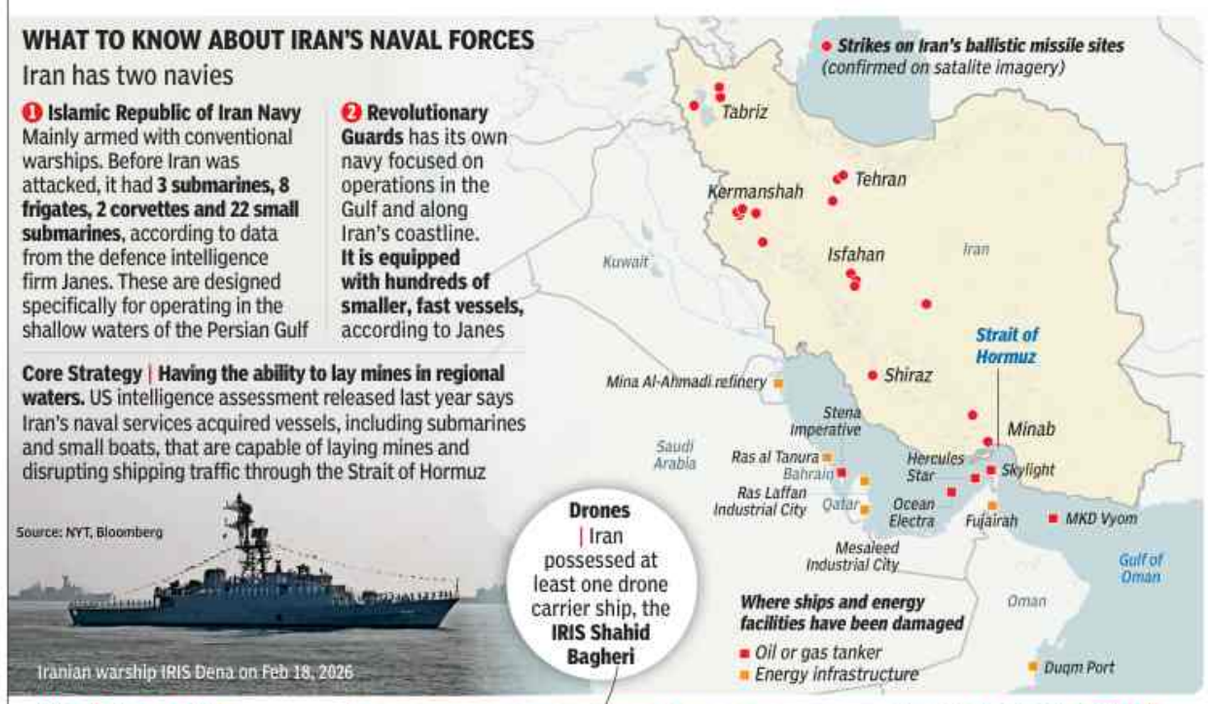
**1 Islamic Republic of Iran Navy** Mainly armed with conventional warships. Before Iran was attacked, it had **3 submarines, 8 frigates, 2 corvettes and 22 small submarines**, according to data from the defence intelligence firm Janes. These are designed specifically for operating in the shallow waters of the Persian Gulf

**2 Revolutionary Guards** has its own navy focused on operations in the Gulf and along Iran's coastline. **It is equipped with hundreds of smaller, fast vessels,** according to Janes

**Core Strategy | Having the ability to lay mines in regional waters.** US intelligence assessment released last year says Iran's naval services acquired vessels, including submarines and small boats, that are capable of laying mines and disrupting shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz


Source: NYT, Bloomberg
Iranian warship IRIS Dena on Feb 18, 2026

**Drones | Iran possessed at least one drone carrier ship, the IRIS Shahid Bagheri**




**WHAT US CLAIMS IT HAS DESTROYED**

**20** warships sunk, including the **drone carrier Shahid Bagheri**

**2** corvettes and a frigate, the IRIS Dena

No Iranian warships left in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz or the Gulf of Oman by March 3, according to US military

A satellite image shows the Shahid Bagheri, the Iranian drone carrier, off Bandar Abbas on Feb 1, 2026

A satellite image shows the Bandar Abbas Military Harbour on fire on March 2, 2026

A satellite image of damaged Konarak Naval base in Iran

**BLOCKING STRAIT OF HORMUZ**

**Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Thursday that the Strait of Hormuz is now closed to ships from the US, Israel, Europe and other Western allies.** Trump's suggestion that US would insure and protect oil tankers and other vessels passing through the strait may potentially bring Iran's anti-ship missiles into play

Iran is known to have at least six types of such missiles. Most are based on older Chinese designs and have maximum ranges of about 75 miles (120km)

That doesn't allow them to hit US navy ships, which operate far from Iran's shores. But it provides thorough coverage of the strait, which is less than 25 miles (40km) wide at its narrowest point

## US House to vote on an Iran war powers

The House was expected to vote Thursday on a war powers resolution to halt President Trump's attack on Iran, a sign of unease in Congress over the rapidly widening conflict. It's the second vote in as many days, after the Senate defeated a similar measure. Lawmakers are confronting the reality of representing the American people in wartime tested by a president's unilateral decision to go to war with Iran. AP

## More tankers under attack

More tankers came under attack in Gulf waters Thursday. A Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker was targeted by an Iranian remote-controlled boat laden with explosives while anchored near Iraq's Khor al Zubair port, according to initial assessments. A second tanker at anchor off Kuwait was taking on water and spilling oil after a large explosion on its port side. Nine vessels have come under attack since the conflict broke out between the US, Israel and Iran on Saturday. Around 200 ships, including oil and LNG tankers as well as cargo ships, remained at anchor in open waters off the coast of major Gulf producers, according to estimates based on ship-tracking data from the MarineTraffic platform. Hundreds of other vessels remained outside the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

## Drone attack hits Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan on Thursday accused Iran of a drone attack on its territory that injured four civilians, and it vowed to retaliate as the war in West Asia reached into another country. Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said in a statement that Iranian drones attacked its exclave of Nakhchivan and damaged an airport building. President Ilham Aliyev accused Iran of carrying out "a groundless act of terror and aggression," and said his military has been told to prepare for retaliatory measures. The Caspian Sea nation halted truck traffic across the nearly 700-km border with Iran. Iran's general staff of the armed forces denied it had launched a drone toward Azerbaijan. The incident highlighted Azerbaijan's complicated ties with Iran, at a time when Baku has developed military and economic ties with Israel. AP

# Europe moves to secure Red Sea navigation, protect Cyprus

Reuters
Spain is sending its frigate used for air defence to Cyprus

**Rome/Paris:** European powers said on Thursday they would work together to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea and send naval and other assets to protect Cyprus as the expanding US–Iran war entered its sixth day. Italy, Spain, France and the Netherlands will send naval assets to protect Cyprus in the coming days, Rome's defence minister Guido Crosetto told parliament.

French President Macron spoke with the PMs of Italy and Greece on Thursday and "they all agreed to step up cooperation to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea and to coordinate the dispatch of military assets to Cyprus," a senior source said. The plans ruled out any direct involvement in the war. "We are not at war and we do not want to enter a war," Italian PM Giorgia Meloni said Thursday.

PM Keir Starmer announced on Thursday that Britain is sending additional fighter jets to Qatar. The four Typhoon planes will join an existing UK squadron in the Gulf state "to strengthen our defensive operations in Qatar and across the region," Starmer said. The announcement came after defence secretary John Healey arrived in Cyprus following a drone strike on a UK air base on the Mediterranean island earlier this week. Britain has also said it will deploy a destroyer to the region along with additional helicopters equipped with counter-drone capabilities.

Spain, which had so far refrained from involving itself in defensive operations, said on Thursday it will send its frigate used for air defence to Cyprus.

The Dutch govt said on Wednesday it was weighing a request to help secure maritime traffic threatened by the escalating crisis. Meloni said on Thursday Rome would respond to requests from Gulf nations seeking air defence equipment to counter Iran, citing the need to protect Italian citizens and troops in the region. A French official said on Thursday that Paris has authorised a presence of US aircraft at certain bases in France, provided they do not take part in operations against Iran. The agreement did not cover French bases in West Asia, the official said. REUTERS

# Iran using cluster bomb warheads: Israel military

**Surendra.Singh**
@timesofindia.com

The Israel military has revealed that Iran recently launched multiple ballistic missiles carrying cluster bomb warheads at Israel, indiscriminately spreading small bombs in the country.

Cluster bombs or cluster munitions are weapons that release scores of small, explosive submunitions over a wide area, being designed for use against people and vehicles. The warhead of such missiles opens up while descending and scatters around 20 smaller munitions with around 2.5 kg of explosives in a radius of around 8 km, according to Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Military analysts warn that the introduction of these weapons changes the dynamics of the conflict. Instead of a single explosion at one point, a cluster warhead can scatter many smaller bombs across a large zone, increasing civilian casualties and causing greater infrastructure destruction. The IDF confirmed that Iran has launched ballistic missiles carrying cluster bomb warheads at Israel in the ongoing conflict, as well as in the June 2025 war. The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen also launched several missiles with cluster bomb warheads at Israel last year.

Israeli experts have indicated that Iran might have received help from external sources for the deadly missiles. There is speculation of possible transfer of military technology from either Russia or China. Some of the submunitions do not explode upon hitting the ground, but they can still pose danger to people. The IDF Home Front Command has, therefore, warned people not to approach any missile remains.

# *Why Iran's global partners are staying on the sidelines*

**Ben Hubbard**

AFP
Mourners gather in the city of Qom on Thursday for war victims' funeral

Despite long being treated as a pariah by the West and isolated by US sanctions, Iran's revolutionary Islamic govt maintained diplomatic, commercial and military ties with a range of countries.

Turkiye and India engaged with it on trade and security. China looked to it for cheap oil. North Korea, Venezuela and Russia considered it an ally in their struggle against the West and conspired with it to develop military technology and subvert sanctions. Now that Iran finds itself under attack by, those friends, neighbours and partners have little more than words to offer the Islamic Republic. They, in turn, could become targets.

That is a product, experts say, of Iran's foreign policy, which has shied away from commitments to other countries while investing in militias that share its religiously-fuelled hatred of the US and Israel. Those militias can't help Iran now. The most formidable of them, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, have been ground down by wars with Israel. The Houthi militia in Yemen and Iraqi armed groups backed by Iran can target ships in the Red Sea or American forces in Iraq. But such attacks are unlikely to change the course of a war inside Iran. Most countries that maintain relations with Iran do so out of strategic, geographic or economic necessity, giving them little reason to sacrifice when Iran comes under fire, experts said.

India engaged with Iran as an important player in its region and to seek economic advantages, according to Kabir Taneja, executive director of the Observer Research Foundation Middle East. "There was definitely no overlap as far as world-view is concerned," he said. "It was always a transactional relationship, but a functional and a useful one as far as New Delhi was concerned."

Ties with Iran did not stop India from becoming Israel's largest arms customer, with Indian purchases making up 34% of Israel's total sales between 2020 and 2024, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. India's balancing act between Israel, Iran and others meant it would steer clear of the war in Iran, Taneja said. "Indian foreign policy is clear in that matter, that it does not enter into other people's business," he said.

North Korea condemned the war but has done little else, and Venezuela's posture has changed since the US ousted President Nicolas Maduro in Jan. China remains Iran's largest trading partner, mostly because it buys more than three-quarters of Iran's oil. China has called for restraint, criticised the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei as "unacceptable" and appointed an envoy to mediate. It is unlikely to directly challenge the US, analysts said, so as not to disturb Trump's expected visit to China in April.

Russia has been Iran's closest state ally in pushing back against the West. "You have this growing alignment and grievance over the global order and the US alliance system," said Hanna Notte, the Eurasia programme director at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Military cooperation between Russia and Iran grew during the conflict in Syria, where both countries propped up President Bashar al-Assad before he was ousted in 2024. Russia-Ukraine conflict further solidified the relationship as Russia needed Iranian drone technology, which it deployed against Ukraine. In Jan 2025, Russia and Iran signed a major cooperation treaty that deepened their defence ties but did not include a requirement to come to each other's defence in case of an attack.

Russia has given Iran some military equipment but its support has been limited, Notte said, in part because Russia did not want to complicate its ties with Israel. Russia will likely stick to its policy of avoiding direct military conflict with Israel and the US, Notte said. NYT

## Kurdish dissident groups prepping to fight against Iran with US support

**Irbil (Iraq):** Kurdish Iranian dissident groups based in northern Iraq are preparing for a potential cross-border military operation in Iran, and the US has asked Iraqi Kurds to support them, Kurdish officials said.

The Kurdish groups are widely seen as the most well-organised segment of the fragmented Iranian opposition and are believed to have thousands of trained fighters. Their entry into the war could pose a significant challenge to the embattled authorities in Tehran and could also risk pulling Iraq further into the conflict. Khalil Nadiri, an official with the Kurdistan Freedom Party, or PAK, based in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, said Wednesday that some of their forces had moved to areas near the Iranian border in Sulaymaniyah province and were on standby. He said Kurdish opposition group leaders had been contacted by US officials regarding a potential operation, without giving more details.

Asked about reports that the Trump administration was considering arming Iranian Kurdish groups, defence secretary Pete Hegseth said: "None of our objectives are premised on the support or the arming of any particular force. So, what other entities may be doing, we're aware of, but our objectives aren't centred on that." AP

## Iran says the US has 'no exit plan'

As war continues in West Asia, a battle of rhetoric is also being waged between the US and Iran. Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Thursday that the US had suffered "painful damage" from Iran's strikes adding that Washington had "no exit plan." He said the US officials privately acknowledged the situation. US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said that Iran's leaders were "toast". REUTERS

# China boosts defence spending 7% in drive to modernise by 2035

**Hong Kong:** China will boost defence spending by 7% in 2026, it said on Thursday, the lowest rate in five years but still outpacing wider economic growth targets and the rest of Asia at a time of growing regional tension, including over Taiwan. Security analysts and regional military attaches are watching China's budget closely as it scrambles to modernise the military by 2035, while stepping up deployments across East Asia and purging the top brass to tackle graft.

China will improve combat readiness and accelerate the development of "advanced combat capabilities", Premier Li Qiang said at the opening of parliament's annual meeting. "All these steps will boost our strategic capacity to safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests," Li said in his report. Govt remains committed to the ruling Communist Party's "absolute leadership over the armed forces", Li added.

China would "resolutely fight against separatist forces aimed at 'Taiwan independence' and oppose external interference", Li vowed, virtually reprising comments of last year. That would "promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and advance cause of national reunification", he added. REUTERS

## China sets economy's growth target <5% for first time since '91

China has signalled continuity rather than change for its economy, setting a slightly lower target for growth this year in the midst of a property slump and other headwinds at home and growing uncertainty abroad. Premier Li Qiang set a target of 4.5% to 5% annual growth in his report presented to the opening session of this year's meeting of National People's Congress. It's the lowest growth target since 1991. Experts say the lower target is in line with longer-term goals that are less focused on high growth rates. AP

# Process refunds on illegal tariffs: Court to US customs

**Washington:** A US trade court judge Wednesday ordered govt to begin paying potentially billions of dollars in refunds to importers who paid tariffs that the Supreme Court said last month were collected illegally. Judge Richard Eaton of the US court of international trade ordered govt to finalise the cost of bringing millions of shipments into the US without assessing a tariff, according to a court filing. He ordered the refunds to be made with interest.

When merchandise is brought into the US, an importer pays an estimated amount at entry which is then finalised around 314 days later, a process known as liquidation. Eaton directed customs and border protection to finalise the entry cost on shipments without the tariff being assessed, resulting in a refund. "Customs knows how to do this," he said at a hearing on Wednesday, according to a recording on the court's website.

Customs and Border Protection has said in court filings that the task of finalising entry costs could require manual review of more than 70 million entries. The agency had said it wanted up to four months to assess its options for paying refunds. REUTERS

# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026


**CYBER ATTACKERS TARGETING CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE**

State-backed groups such as Salt Typhoon and Linen Typhoon are targeting North American telecom, govt and IT systems to enable long-term espionage

**North Korea expands fake IT worker scams:** Hackers pose as remote IT staff using AI deep-fakes and fake LinkedIn/GitHub profiles to infiltrate Western cos

**Cloud services used to hide malware:** Attackers conceal commands in tools like Google Calendar and store malicious files on Google Drive and Dropbox

**AI boosts SaaS supply-chain attacks:** Hackers use AI tools to study SaaS integrations and breach multiple customers through a single platform

Source: Cloudflare Threat Intelligence

# Sensex recovers 900 pts on improving geopolitical cues

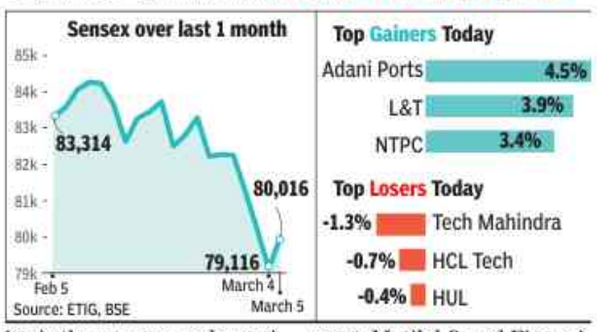
## Gains 1.1% On US Shipping Safety Guarantee, Iran's Talk Proposal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Sensex reversed its falling trend on Thursday and regained part of the 2,300-point fall recorded in the two previous sessions since the war started in West Asia. At the end of a volatile session the index was up 900 points or 1.1% at 80,016 points.

The day's session started on a strong footing after the US markets closed higher on Wednesday night. Sensex opened a little over 400 points higher, witnessed some volatility through most of the session and then rallied strongly in the last one hour to close slightly off the day's high of 80,304 points. The strong up move in the stock market in the last hour came after Iran's foreign minister told a news channel that the country was ready to move to the negotiating table with the US on its nuclear programme. Earlier, the US guarantee to insurers covering ships plying in the war zone and security for those ships improved sentiment.

**SIGH OF RELIEF...ROAD TO REVIVAL?**




Taking a similar path like sensex, Nifty on NSE closed 285 points or 1.2% higher at 24,766 points. The day's rally added about Rs 5.7 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 452.9 lakh crore, official data showed. According to Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research - Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, the Indian market snapped its losing streak on the back of improving geopolitical cues. "(Investors sentiment) received a boost after the US announced security and insurance guarantees for commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, including the possibility of military escorts for oil tankers to ensure uninterrupted global energy supplies amid tensions with Iran," Khemka wrote in a note. Through this strait in the war zone, about 20% of the world's crude oil is transported daily from Iran and the gulf countries. Since the war erupted on Feb 28, Iran has closed this important trade & energy supply channel, which in turn has led to more than 10% rise in crude oil prices globally.

Khemka said some additional support for the market came from reports suggesting that Iran may be exploring possible terms to end the conflict with the US and Israel, raising hopes of a potential de-escalation, although officials remain cautious and regional tensions persist.

Going ahead, the direction of the war in West Asia, the price of crude oil, the rupee's strength against major currencies and foreign fund flows would decide the direction of the Indian market, analysts and dealers said.

## Re gains 55p against $ to close at 91.6/$ as RBI intervenes

**Mumbai:** The rupee recovered 55 paise to close at Rs 91.6 per dollar on Thursday from Wednesday's close of Rs 92.15 after the RBI intervened through state-run banks in both the non-deliverable forward and spot markets to support the currency.

The rupee opened around the 91 level and traded within an intraday range of Rs 91.40–Rs 91.64 per dollar. Traders pointed to aggressive dollar sales by state-run banks that lifted the currency during the session.

Abhishek Goenka, founder of IFA Global, said, "The currency traded within an intraday range of Rs 91.40–Rs 91.64 per dollar following the RBI intervention, which reportedly sold dollars through state-run banks to stabilise the currency." Bankers expect the RBI to be a major participant in the forex markets given the geopolitical risks. The rupee touched an intraday high of Rs 91.41 before ending the day at Rs 91.6 per dollar. India's benchmark equity indices rose around 1%. Most Asian stocks advanced while regional currencies traded mixed. TNN

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# Oil on boil: Companies feel the strain, consumer price rise looms

## Escalating West Asia Conflict Pushes Up Key Input Costs For Cos

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** The spectre of price hikes is looming for consumers as rising oil prices on the back of escalating West Asia conflict risks inflating input costs for companies which will eventually have to pass on the increase to shoppers across the country, straining household budgets.

From lotions and detergents to ACs, washing machines and even a box of paint, crude-linked derivatives make up a significant portion of raw materials that are used to manufacture several regular household products. A depreciating rupee had already been putting pressure on margins of consumer firms that are dependent on imports. Besides, upward movement in prices of certain commodities had also translated into cost increases for consumers in the recent past — for instance coconut oils and home care products among others.

While the endeavour of companies will be to absorb the crude-led rise in costs as much as possible, price hikes will certainly be in the offing if oil touches $90 (per barrel), said Mayank Shah, chief marketing officer at Parle Products. He added that in the foods space, crude accounts for about 20% of input costs. "Rise in crude prices impact freight and packaging costs," Shah said.

**DEPRECIATING RUPEE ADDS TO WOES**

- From lotions and detergents to ACs, washing machines and paint, crude-linked derivatives make up a significant portion of raw materials that are used to manufacture several regular household products
- While companies will aim to absorb the crude-led rise in costs as much as possible, price hikes will certainly be in the offing if oil touches $90 (per barrel)
- A depreciating rupee had already been putting pressure on margins of consumer firms that are dependent on imports
- Higher oil prices will drive up cost of essential raw materials such as polypropylene, styrene monomer and ABS which are fundamental to the manufacturing of refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and other appliances
- Price increases will likely be selective and calibrated, instead of broad-based as the strategy will be to protect company margins while sustaining demand

**'Crude and rupee shock'**

Higher oil prices drive up the cost of essential raw materials such as polypropylene, styrene monomer and ABS which are fundamental to the manufacturing of refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and other appliances, said Kamal Nandi, business head and EVP at appliances business of Godrej Enterprises Group. "If the upward trajectory of crude and the weakening of the rupee persist, it will put pressure on consumer pricing in the near term," said Nandi. The war which has pushed Brent crude prices over $80 per barrel in a matter of days threatens to derail the recovery in consumption helped by GST cuts. Big-ticket purchases such as cars and select durables had seen big demand boost post GST while the FMCG industry was starting to see some demand revival after a prolonged spell of slowdown.

Emami Group, maker of BoroPlus and Dermicool which took 2%-4% price increases in some personal care products to adjust for inflation in the Dec quarter said that for now, the company will wait and watch instead of taking a sudden call on pricing. "The current situation in West Asia has resulted in disruptions in container movement and logistics. We are closely watching the oil prices as that would impact input costs," said Mohit Malhotra, CEO at Dabur India.

**Calibrated rise**

Price increases will be selective and calibrated, instead of broad-based as the strategy will be to protect margins while sustaining demand, said Kuldip Raina, MD & CEO at Shalimar Paints. Nearly 35%-40% of the raw materials used in paint manufacturing including emulsions and additives are linked to crude derivatives, many of which are import dependent.

"In recent weeks, input costs for select crude-linked materials have risen by 8%-12%, alongside firming freight, packaging and specialty chemical costs globally," said Raina. Analysts at HSBC in a note said that oil prices could rise to $90-$100 per barrel if prolonged closure leads to big stockdraws, production is shut or damaged.

## Report: MRPL shuts refining unit on crude oil shortage

**New Delhi/Singapore:** Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd has shut a crude unit and some secondary units at its 300,000-barrel-per-day refinery due to an oil shortage, three sources with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday.

Asian refiners are struggling to secure prompt replacement crude cargoes as Iranian threats to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted crude flows. Some Chinese refiners have already started cutting runs. The state-run refiner shut the 100,000-barrel-per-day crude unit and secondary units, including a hydrocracker. MRPL did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment. The refiner, which stopped buying Russian oil late last year, is largely dependent on crude supplies from the Middle East. MRPL has also suspended refined fuel exports. REUTERS

## Gas supply curbs likely, fertiliser sector prioritised

▶ Continued from page 1

Nearly 30% of India's supplies of natural gas from West Asia, crucial for auto and kitchen fuel as well as feedstock for fertiliser, power and other industries, have been hit. This may require repiroritisation of gas supply through reduced flow to certain segments, although retail consumers are unlikely to be affected.

Gujarat Gas Ltd, one of India's largest city gas distributors in the western state, has already declared force majeure on industrial gas supplies after strain on imported LNG. A senior petroleum ministry official said India currently imports about 195 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of natural gas, of which Qatar supplies around 60 mmscmd. These supplies have been disrupted due to the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.

Officials said while supplies from alternative sources are being tapped to fill the gap, critical sectors such as fertilisers will be given priority to meet peak sowing season demand.

"During Holi, industrial production in north India comes down drastically as a large number of workers travel to their home states. It is easier to restrict industrial supply during this time. Also, industries can arrange energy from alternate sources," an official said. They added that India may sign short-term contracts and undertake high-priced spot purchases of natural gas to bridge the supply gap caused by the crisis. Replacement LNG cargoes may be sourced from the US, West Africa, Australia or Russia, although this could add to transportation costs and delivery time.

### Wall St in red as investors weigh risks

Wall Street's main indexes fell on Thursday as the Middle East conflict entered its sixth day, raising concerns of fresh inflation pressures that could complicate the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions. Helping limit the losses was a strong forecast from Broadcom that projected its AI chip revenue would exceed $100 billion next year, sending shares of the chip designer up 5.3%. The tech-led recovery in the prior session helped the Nasdaq recover all weekly losses, putting it on track to close the week in positive territory if those gains hold through Friday. Declines in financials such as JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs also weighed on the blue-chip Dow. Meanwhile, data showed the number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits was unchanged last week. REUTERS

## Wipro appoints Laura Miller to its board

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Wipro has appointed Laura Marie Miller to its board of directors. She has held senior leadership roles across retail, hospitality, payments and global technology operations, working closely with boards and executive teams. As a member of the executive leadership team at Macy's, Miller played a central role in shaping the company's digital, data and AI strategy.

Miller brings more than two decades of executive leadership experience guiding large global organisations.

Wipro chairman Rishad Premji said, "Laura is a proven technology leader with deep experience guiding global organisations through complex change. Her strategic leadership, public company board experience and understanding of technology governance and risk make her a valuable addition to our board."

## OpenAI tops $25bn in annualised revenue

Artificial intelligence startup OpenAI topped $25 billion in annualized revenue as of the end of last month, The Information reported on Wednesday, citing a person familiar with the figure.

This is a 17% increase from the $21.4 billion in annualised revenue that the company generated at the end of the year, the report said. Reuters could not verify the report. OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. OpenAI is expanding into the enterprise market by teaming up with four of the world's largest consulting firms, betting that a more hands-on approach will help corporate clients move beyond pilot projects to full-scale AI deployments.

In the enterprise race, OpenAI faces competition from rivals such as Anthropic and giants like Google that are selling AI capabilities to enterprises.

**Co eyes $600 billion compute spending through 2030 as IPO plans take shape**

Since late 2022, OpenAI has gone from effectively zero revenue to more than $20 billion in annualized revenue in 2025. Its rival Anthropic has followed a similar trajectory, climbing to roughly $9 billion in annualised revenue. OpenAI is targeting roughly $600 billion in total compute spending through 2030, as the ChatGPT maker lays the groundwork for an IPO that could value it at up to $1 trillion. REUTERS

## FMCG growth slows in Dec qtr on GST transition

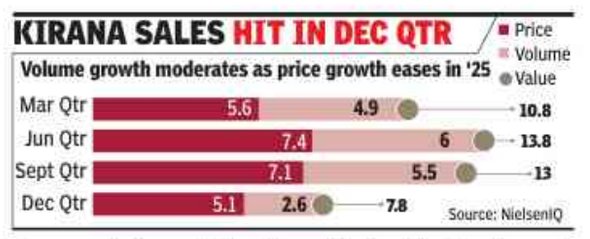
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Consumption of soaps, shampoos, biscuits and other packaged goods took a hit in the Dec quarter with volume growth dropping to 2.6% compared to 6.2% in the year ago quarter as transition to a new goods and services tax (GST) regime from Sept 22 disrupted sales at neighbourhood kirana stores which still drive the bulk of household grocery shopping in large parts of India, NielsenIQ (NIQ) data showed on Thursday.

Value growth also declined to 7.8% in the Dec quarter from 10.1% in the year-ago period on the back of easing prices. Price growth slowed to a four quarter low in the Oct-Dec period due to tax cuts and festive promotions. "Nearly 60% of the FMCG portfolio underwent GST rate revisions, requiring coordinated pricing adjustments across manufacturers, distributors and retailers. While these changes temporarily impacted traditional trade performance, organised channels adapted more quickly....the moderation reflects a combination of a higher festive base in the previous year and transitional adjustments linked to GST rate revisions," analysts at NIQ said.

Many consumers had delayed purchases to avail the benefit of price cuts while kirana stores refused to stock up on old inventory, waiting for fresh batches of products to hit the markets, impeding supplies. Sharang Pant, head of customer success, FMCG and tech & durables, NIQ in India said that the positive impact of GST on consumption is expected to become more visible from the March quarter. In their Dec quarter earnings, companies have already been pointing towards gradual recovery in consumption on the back of tax cuts even though a depreciating rupee and ongoing geopolitical tensions risks triggering price hikes, weighing on revival.

Consumption of both food and home & personal care (HPC) products declined even though stabilisation in edible oil prices and tax cuts somewhat supported volume growth in food. HPC segment recorded a 1.9% volume growth in the Dec quarter, lower than 7.2% in the year-ago period while food volumes slipped to 2.8% from 5.8% in the year-ago quarter.


KIRANA SALES HIT IN DEC QTR
Volume growth moderates as price growth eases in '25
Price
Volume
Value
Mar Qtr 5.6 4.9 10.8
Jun Qtr 7.4 6 13.8
Sept Qtr 7.1 5.5 13
Dec Qtr 5.1 2.6 7.8
Source: NielsenIQ

## *For every ₹100, women founders get a mere ₹4 in startup funding: Report*

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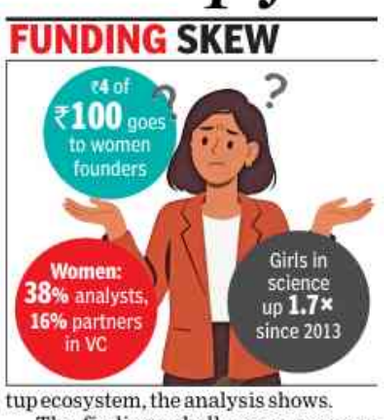
**Bengaluru:** For every Rs 100 raised by founders from India's startup networks, only about Rs 4 goes to women, according to a new report by Kalaari Capital's CXXO initiative, which argues that the funding gap reflects a structural market inefficiency rather than a shortage of women entrepreneurs.

The Rs 100 figure represents aggregate funding across a dataset of Indian tech startups founded between 2015 and 2025, mapped across high-velocity employer cohorts—essentially the most institutionally connected slice of the startup ecosystem where capital concentration is highest. Within this network, women-led startups accounted for 4.4% of the capital raised, defined as companies with at least one woman co-founder.

The report, titled The Rs 4 Problem: Women Founders and the Market Gap Hiding in Plain Sight, analysed funding patterns among founders emerging from influential startup alumni networks that have historically produced a large share of venture-backed companies and unicorns.

While these networks have played a key role in shaping India's startup ecosystem, the report finds women remain significantly underrepresented within them. Women are 0.6 times as likely to emerge as founders from these networks compared with the broader startup ecosystem, the analysis shows.

**FUNDING SKEW**




The findings challenge a common venture capital narrative that the pipeline of women founders is weak. Education trends suggest the opposite. Girls enrolling in high-school science streams increased 1.7 times between 2013 and 2024, while the number of women registering for the Joint Entrance Examination doubled between 2015 and 2025, indicating rising participation in STEM fields.

Despite this, structural barriers persist across the startup lifecycle. The report notes that women remain less embedded in influential founder networks that often act as accelerants for venture outcomes. Companies such as Flipkart, Freshworks and Razorpay have collectively produced over 5,000 founders who have launched around 1,500 funded startups, with more than 20 unicorns tracing their origins to these networks.

Representation also thins out on the investor side where funding decisions are made. Women account for 38% of analyst roles across venture capital firms but only 16% of partner-level positions, the report found, based on an analysis of more than 100 VC firms and around 4,000 professionals.

The report frames the funding gap as a structural inefficiency in capital allocation rather than a diversity issue. Citing global research, it notes that advancing women's economic participation could add about $770 billion to India's GDP, while women-led businesses in India face an unmet credit gap exceeding $158 billion. Yet women-founded startups receive only 0.3% of the country's venture capital, highlighting the scale of unrealised economic value.

Commenting on the findings, Vani Kola, founder and managing director of Kalaari Capital, said the gap reflects how capital often flows through familiar networks rather than across the full spectrum of entrepreneurial talent.

"When capital concentrates around pattern-matched familiarity — the same schools, the same companies, the same networks — blind spots emerge," she said. "The funding gap isn't just a question of equality. It's a failure of price discovery."

## IBM opens AI innovation hub in Bengaluru

**Bengaluru:** IBM has opened its first infrastructure innovation centre — the Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center — at its India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus, reinforcing the company's investment in India as a hub for infrastructure engineering and AI innovation for domestic and global markets.

The centre will bring together IBM's systems architects and infrastructure specialists to co-create AI solutions with clients, independent software vendors (ISVs), global system integrators (GSIs), global capability centres (GCCs) and ecosystem partners. By combining infrastructure technologies, hybrid cloud capabilities and AI solutions under one roof, the facility aims to speed up the development and deployment of secure and scalable enterprise AI systems.

"India is at a pivotal moment in its AI journey, and infrastructure will define the pace and scale at which organisations can innovate," said **Sandip Patel**, MD, IBM India & South Asia. "Across industries, enterprises in India are modernising mission-critical systems to become AI-ready. This centre reflects IBM's long-term commitment to the market and strengthens our ability to design, build and scale infrastructure solutions locally, while contributing to global innovation." TNN

## SNAP SHOTS

**NEW INNINGS:** Karnataka pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar tied the knot with Sagarika Madan in Bengaluru on Thursday

### BFI explores alternate route

The Indian men's national basketball team, stranded in Doha due to West Asia turmoil, could return home through an alternate route via Riyadh if airspace restrictions in the Middle East continue, said team manager Sajid Rahman on Thursday. "The airspace is not open for another 2-3 days. We might go back to India, via Riyadh. We may go to Riyadh, and then from Riyadh to India. They are planning to do this as an alternative way to return to India," Rahman said.

**Gukesh held by Maghsoodloo:** World champion D Gukesh's hunt for a win continued as Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo held the Indian ace to a draw in the seventh round of the masters section of the Prague International chess festival. With just two rounds remaining, Gukesh sits in the last spot with just two points. The four draws have come alongside three defeats and this could well be the time for the youngest ever world champion to introspect. Meanwhile, defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan to remain on a fifty percent score after seven games. The lone winner of the day was Vincent Keymer of Germany who defeated David Anton Guijarro of Spain.

**Bangladesh recall Litton, Afif:** Bangladesh on Thursday recalled Litton Das and Afif Hossain to their 15-member squad for the three-match one-day international series against Pakistan starting next week. Pacers Nahid Rana and Shoriful Islam also returned as the selection panel led by Gazi Ashraf Hossain made several changes to the squad that last played an ODI series against the West Indies in Oct. **Squad:** Mehidy Hasan Miraz (c ), Soumya Sarkar, Saif Hassan, Tanzid Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Litton Das, Afif Hossain, Mahidul Islam, Rishad Hossain, Tanvir Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Nahid Rana.

**East Bengal, Goa play out draw:** East Bengal FC and FC Goa played out a goalless draw in their Indian Super League match in Kolkata on Thursday. The Gaurs are provisionally third in the table with eight points from four matches while the Red and Gold brigade are a place below with seven points from four games.

**Lahiri tied 16th:** Anirban Lahiri closed with a birdie-birdie finish to end at 4-under and tied for 16th in the LIV Golf Hong Kong on Thursday. Torque GC's Carlos Ortiz ended the round on top after firing a 10-under 60.

**Diksha lies at T-20:** Diksha Dagar carded three-under 69 to lie tied 20th at the Australian Women's Classic in Magenta Shores, Australia on Thursday. Pranavi Urs (72) was at T-52. Avani Prashanth (77) at T-118 and Hitaashee Bakshi (82).

# LAKSHYA QUELLS ANGUS THREAT

**Indian Meets Li Feng In Last 8**

"I didn't play freely towards the end of the second game and gave too many easy shots for him to hit. But I prepared well for the third game to go all out." —Lakshya

Manne.Ratnakar@timesofindia.com

Lakshya Sen twice rallied from a mid-match slump to overcome Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 and advance to the quarterfinals of the All England Championships in Birmingham on Thursday.

He is the only Indian left in the fray after the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto retired against Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet while trailing 19-21, 8-9.

**ALL ENGLAND BADMINTON**

Lakshya, who stunned world champion Shi Yu Qi in the first round, surrendered huge leads in the first two games before recovering to dominate the decider.

Leading 17-13 and 19-16 in the first game, Lakshya let Angus draw level at 19-19. Lakshya then produced a powerful crosscourt winner to reach match point. Angus hit the next one wide to lose the first game.

In the second, Lakshya was cruising at 11-4 and quickly made it 13-6. Angus, who had never lost to Lakshya in three meetings, reduced it to 16-19. From 17-20, he saved three match points and stunned Lakshya to win the game. Lakshya had lost the 2024 Olympic bronze medal match to Lee Zee Jia after failing to hold on to big leads. But the Indian buried those Parisian demons with a superlative performance in the decider here.

From 0-2, he scored five straight points and swiftly extended the lead to 13-5. Playing with a lot of caution, he did not allow Angus to recover as he then fired smash winners to register his first victory against the Hong Kong shuttler.

Lakshya lauded his opponent for the fightback. "It was very solid in both games. Credit to him, he made a solid comeback in the second. I didn't play freely towards the end of the second game and gave too many easy shots for him to hit. But I prepared well for the third game to go all out, and am happy with the way I played the third game," Lakshya said.

The Indian admitted that he did not stick to the plan towards the end of the first two sets. "Tactically, I was playing the right game. It's just that I did not stick to the plan during the last few points, made too many errors. But it was important to forget the first two games and play the third with the plan that worked," said Lakshya.

Lakshya now faces Li Shi Feng of China in the quarterfinals. "Now it is time to recover for another tough match tomorrow," he signed off.

Lakshya and Li have a par win-loss record at 7-7, but the Chinese shuttler has won their last three meetings.

# India plans to send 700 athletes for Asiad

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**New Delhi:** India is planning to send its largest-ever contingent to the upcoming Asian Games in Japan in Sept. Over 700 Indian athletes are expected to compete in more than 40 disciplines at the Aichi-Nagoya continental event scheduled from Sept 19 to Oct 4. In the last Asian Games in Hangzhou in 2023, India fielded 655 athletes across 40 events. The athletics contingent alone had sent 68 athletes. In Jakarta 2018, India sent a contingent of 570 athletes who competed in 36 disciplines.

On Thursday, sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a meeting with Sports Authority of India (SAI) officials reviewed India's preparations for the Asiad. The aim is to surpass the country's previous edition tally of 106 medals through strategic planning and coordination across all stakeholders.

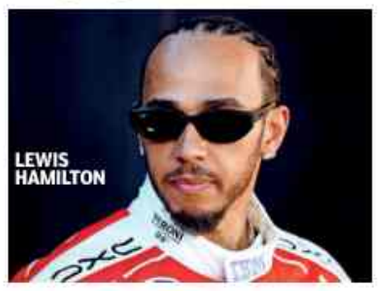
Officials highlighted that the Aichi-Nagoya Asiad follows a unique five-cluster competition model, with athletes competing across multiple prefectures rather than staying in a single Olympic village-style accommodation. Venues are spread across clusters such as Aichi, Gifu, Shizuoka and the Airport-Expo zone. The focus is on travel, logistics, medical support and athlete recovery.

To help athletes familiarise with the container-style living arrangements expected during the Games, special makeshift container units have been installed at SAI regional centres in Patiala and Bengaluru. "This measure will help athletes adapt early and avoid distractions during competition. The athletes would initially be asked to spend a night in containers to get a feel of how the actual accommodation during the Games would be," a ministry official said.

For the Asiad, Japan has replaced the concept of a traditional Games Village with accommodation in a luxury cruise ship, the Costa Serena. They have converted shipping containers to cut costs. The cruise ship will be docked at Kinjo Pier in Nagoya Port and house around 4600 athletes and staff while another 2400 participants will stay in temporary shelters made from shipping containers.

Thursday's meeting also reviewed a four-day recce by an IOA delegation in Jan which inspected key competition venues, athlete facilities and logistics infrastructure in Japan.

## Drivers face most challenging era: Hamilton



LEWIS HAMILTON

**Dubai:** The sweeping technical changes to Formula One this season will be the biggest test drivers have ever faced, said seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton on Thursday. F1's chassis and power unit regulations have had their most significant overhaul in decades, and the increased use of electric power has put the onus on drivers needing to be tactical with energy deployment and regeneration.

Embarking on his 20th season, Ferrari driver Hamilton has adapted to multiple technical eras since starting in V8 cars with McLaren in 2007 but the 41-year-old Briton said the latest reset was on another level. "It will be the most challenging it's ever been in the sport, for sure," Hamilton told reporters at Albert Park ahead of the season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

"Each weekend, you're learning more. You'll be faced with different challenges with the different characteristics of the circuit, which I think is fine."

**NORRIS HUNGRY FOR MORE GLORY**

Lando Norris said that winning his first Formula One championship had only made him hungry for more as he gears up to launch his title defence at the Australian Grand Prix. "I've probably done the most training and things during the course of the off-season than I've ever done," the Briton told reporters.

"I'm still just as hungry. I think it made me want it more, in a way, because you get that feeling. The same as when you have one win, you want another one in a race. For me, it was the same feeling as a championship; that one is amazing, but then you definitely want to achieve two." AGENCIES

## ARSENAL TAKE CONTROL OF EPL RACE AS CITY HELD

**London:** Premier League leaders Arsenal stretched their lead over Manchester City to seven points on Wednesday with a nervy 1-0 win at Brighton, while Pep Guardiola's men were held to a costly 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest. The Gunners have long been favourites to win their first English league crown since 2004 but Pep Guardiola's men have loomed large in their rear-view mirror.

On a busy night of action, Arsenal drew first blood in the battle for English title as Bukayo Saka celebrated his 300th Arsenal appearance with a goal in the ninth minute at Brighton's Amex Stadium. Second-placed City, who have a game in hand, appeared to be on course to stay within five points. But they twice surrendered their lead to relegation-threatened Forest.

Michael Carrick suffered his first defeat over his two spells as Manchester United's interim manager as the visitors failed to capitalise on their man advantage against Newcastle at St. James' Park, losing 1-2.

Joao Pedro scored a hat-trick for Chelsea, who beat Aston Villa 4-1, pushing Liverpool down to sixth spot. The win lifted Chelsea to fifth place, three behind Villa. AFP

# 'Spain, France favourites, but you never know with Germany'

**Benedikt Howedes, World Cup Winner In 2014, On Fame, Normal life And That '7-1' Game With Brazil**

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**New Delhi:** Howedes is an unsung hero even in Germany and he likes it that way. One who played every minute in Germany's famous World Cup triumph in 2014, Howedes prefers to stay under the radar even after a decade.

Not quite possible though for those who were fortunate to watch him keep Argentina's right flank rather quiet at the Maracana in that 2014 final. He could have been the toast of the world just before half-time when his thunderous header came to grief off the Argentina post from a Toni Kroos corner.

"Of course, I remember that situation. But you won't believe me, but I'm not unhappy with it because I've seen what happened afterwards with Mario Goetze (who scored the lone goal that day) and I'm not that guy who wants to be in the spotlight. Nowadays I can say I played every single minute," he tells **TOI** in an exclusive interaction.

"I want to work and I can go through the city without being recognized by everyone and that makes it quite comfortable for me, to be honest," says the German defender who has traded raucous fame for normalcy and reliability, a necessary state of mind for a multi-functional defender.

Getty Images

**THAT DAY:** Howedes (right) shadows Lionel Messi during the 2014 WC final

"Especially now, when I have three kids at home and it's easier for my kids to get a normal life. Instead of just being the kid of Mr. Howedes who starred in the World Cup final," he points out.

"I was a different type when I played football. I'm always a team player. One of my strengths is that I can easily adapt to different positions on the pitch. I always put the team in front of my personal situation. So I'll put all the effort in the team," says the Schalke 04 legend.

With the World Cup 2026 less than 100 days to kick-off, Howedes shares his assessment of the German national team under Julian Nagelsmann. "I think the German team always had a strength in terms of mentality and we create a special spirit during a tournament. The last tournament, we were different. We didn't have many good players in the last few years.

"That has changed a little bit now," he adds, "We have (Jamal) Musiala and (Florian) Wirtz, (Nico) Schlotterbeck and (Joshua) Kimmich, who are playing an outstanding role in the national team. In my opinion, we are not the top favourites for winning the World Cup. For me it's Spain or France. But you never know what happens during a tournament when you are creating something really special. If they can create this special team spirit, then everything is possible."

Recalling that unforgettable 7-1 win over hosts Brazil, Howedes revealed the dressing-room atmosphere during the break when Germany were 5-0 ahead. "To be honest it was not that we were going crazy and everybody was laughing and shouting and celebrating," he reminds us.

"It was totally the opposite because we knew that one year or so before that game we had a World Cup qualifier against Sweden. We were leading 4-0 until the 60th min and after the final whistle, it was a 4-4 draw. We had this in our mind and we had to stay focused. We didn't want to make jokes with the Brazil players. We played very straight and we scored two more goals in the second session," he says.

(SONY SPORTS NETWORK IS THE OFFICIAL BROADCASTER OF BUNDESLIGA IN INDIA)

# Vaishnavi, Ankita have it easy, enter quarterfinals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kalaburagi**: In-form Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina moved into the quarterfinals of the women's singles at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi here on Thursday.

Third seed Vaishnavi cruised past Anna Sedysheva with a 6-2, 6-0 win. The match began with comfortable service holds from both players. Vaishnavi then began to apply pressure with sharp returns in the sixth game to force three break points. She eventually broke after a deuce battle and backed it up with a confident hold to jump into a 5-2 lead. She secured the first set 6-2 with an overhead smash after another tight game.

**ITF W35**

Vaishnavi broke early in the second set as Sedysheva began committing more errors. She remained clinical to wrap up the match with ease.

Eighth seed Ankita breezed past Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1. Raina broke in the second game and held that advantage through the remainder of the set.

In the eighth game, sustained pressure forced a long shot from Maslenkova, handing Raina the first set. The Indian raised her level further in the second, securing three break points in the fourth game with a series of winners before an error from Maslenkova gave her a 3-1 lead. Ankita eventually sealed the match with a backhand winner.

Meanwhile, Elina Nepliy edged past fifth seed Zeel Desai in a closely fought encounter, prevailing 7-6 (3), 6-3 to move into the quarterfinals. Top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere held firm to defeat Eva Marie Desvignes 7-5, 7-5, while second seed Anchisa Chanta also progressed comfortably with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Polina Kuharenko.

**Results:** 3-Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt Anna Sedysheva 6-2, 6-0; 8-Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1; Elina Nepliy bt 5-Zeel Desai (Ind) 7-6(3), 6-3; 1-Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) bt Eva Marie Desvignes (Sgp) 7-5, 7-5; 2-Anchisa Chanta (Tha) bt Polina Kuharenko 6-3, 6-3; 6-Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) bt Sofia Martianova 6-3, 6-0; Maayan Laron (Isr) bt 7-Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 6-1; Evgeniya Burdina bt Sofiia Suslova 7-6(1), 6-2.

FINE FORM: Vaishnavi Adkar a in action against Anna Sedysheva of Russia in Kalaburagi on Thursday

## India to tour SA for T20I series

**Mumbai:** India's women will tour South Africa for a five-match T20I series from April 17-27, with games in Durban, Johannesburg and Benoni. Cricket South Africa has opened ticket sales, billing the series as part of both teams' build-up to the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup in England (June 12-July 5, 2026).

It will be the first meeting between the sides since India beat South Africa by 52 runs in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup final in Navi Mumbai, on Nov 3. South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt said the series is a key assignment. TNN

# Harman & Co bank on recent Test form

**Perth:** Hammered in the ODIs, the Indian women's cricket team would expect the senior players to step up with inspiring performances when it faces Australia in a day-night Test for the first time in nearly five years, starting here on Friday.

India would be brimming with confidence having remained unbeaten in their last five Tests. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side won won three consecutive Tests between Dec 2023 and July 2024 defeating England, Australia and South Africa respectively, but all those wins came on home soil.

India's last two overseas Tests ended in draws against England and Australia in 2021. The game against Australia in Sept-Oct of that year was a day-nighter that the visitors drew. A major highlight of that match was Smriti Mandhana, who scored the second of her two Test hundreds at that time.

The Indians would take confidence from the fact that they created history by winning their first-ever Test against Australia by eight wickets in Dec 2023. PTI

**LIVE, STAR SPORTS, 10.50AM IST**

# K'taka ride on Saloni's show

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka rode on **Saloni P's** all-round performance to register a 79-run win over Baroda in the BCCI Women's U-23 One Day Trophy. In Jaipur on Thursday, Karnataka, who were asked to bat, posted 232/8 and returned to bowl out Baroda for 153 in 37.2 overs.

**BCCI U-23 ONE DAY TROPHY**

Karnataka wobbled to 26/2 in the 14th over, before opener Rachita Hatwar and all rounder Niki Prasad brought a semblance of order with their 36-run partnership for the third wicket. Karnataka's innings took off with the 65-run sixth-wicket stand between Mithila Vinod (37) and Shreya Chavan (34). Saloni then upped the temp with an unbeaten 44-ball 50 (7x4; 1x6) to help Karnataka finish with a competitive score.

In reply, Baroda were reduced to 56/4 in the 13th over. Middlle-order batter Vidhi Parmar offered the sole resistance with a half-century (54). Off-spinner Saloni was again in the thick of action, returning 3 for 15 to steer Karnataka towards the finish line. Mithila Vinod and Pooja Kumari chipped in with two wickets apiece.

**Brief scores: Karnataka: 232/8 in 50 overs** (Rachitha Hatwar 45, Mithila Vinod 37, Shreya Chavan 34, Saloni P 50 n.o; Vidhi Parmar 2-35, Rathod Janki 2-48) **bt Baroda: 153 all out in 37.2 overs** (Vidhi 54; Mithila Vinod 2-24, Pooja Kumari 2-18, Saloni P 3-15).

## JSC, Young Orions post second win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** JSC and Young Orions continued their impressive start with their second straight win in the Mathru Cup state-level women's basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, here on Thursday.

JSC routed DYES, Vidyanagar 83-31 after leading 49-19 at half time. Taarushee top-scored for JSC with 26 points followed by Deblina (19). In another tie, Orions battled past Rajmahal BC 63-54. Sarayu and Bindhushree starred for the winners with 20 points each.

**BASKETBALL**

South Western Railway, Mysuru and Mounts BC began their campaign with commanding wins. Sathya (28 points) and Sruthi Arvind (27) top scored for SWR as they strolled past Bharath SU 86-18. Mounts BC defeated Pattabhiramanagar BC 36-14. **Results:** SWR, Mysuru 86 (Sathya 28, Sruthi Arvind 27) bt Bharath SU 18 (Archana 10) HT 51-7; DYES Mysuru 62 (Sanika 8 ,Vaishnavi 8) bt All Star Mysore BC 28 (Shravani 20, Lahari 6) HT 24-12; Mounts BC 36 (Nakshatra 12, Nidhi 5) bt Pattabhiramanagar BC 14 (Gauri 9) HT 14-3; Beagles BC 59 (Swathi 16, Kousthubha 10) bt Viveks SC 30 (Anantha 12) HT 35-12; JSC 83 (Taarushee 26, Deblina 19) bt DYES, Vidyanagar 31 (Vibha 12, Nireeksha 7) HT 49-19; Young Orions 63 (Sarayu 20, Bindhushree 20, Isabel 12) bt Rajmahal BC 54 (Nikitha 19, Aadya 16) HT 28-34.

# Centurion Sisodia, bowlers power Bhagirathi to massive win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** **Luvnith Sisodia's** century (108) powered Bhagirathi Group to a 146-run victory over EPF Sports & Recreation Club in the KSCA Group II (Division II) league-cum-knockout tournament here recently.Opting to bat, the southpaw opener led Bhagirathi's charge with his 53-ball knock, which was highlighted by nine hits to the fence and six over it. His opening stand of 108 runs with Aadarsh Prajwal set the tone as Aaron Joseph (28) and Aarav Mahesh (27) also chipped in to help their team finish with 230 runs in 20 overs.

In reply, EPF Sports & Recreation Club crumbled with five of their players failing to open their accounts. They were bundled out for 84 in 17.4 overs as Santosh Singh and Ambresh K scalped three wickets each.

**Brief scores: Bhagirathi Group: 230/5 in 20 overs** (Luvnith Sisodia (108, 53b, 9x4; 6x6), Aadarsh Prajwal 32, Aaron Joseph 28, Aarav Mahesh 27; Ajith Vikram 2-40) **bt EPF Sports & Recreation Club: 84 all out in 17.4 overs** (Santosh Singh 3-23, Ambresh K 3-7).

**BEL Sports Club: 217/4 in 20.0 overs** (Harshit Pai 100 (56b, 15x4;1x6), Anirudh Srinivas 63) **bt Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike: 188/5 in 20 overs** (Nagarjun TM 52, Tahir Hussain 41, S Shylesh 53; M Babu 2-35).

**Secretariat CC: 159/3 in 20 overs** (Tanshh M 63n.o, Aryaman Jhalani 48) **bt Advocate Association CC: 125 all out in 17 overs** (Afzal Khan 39; Ashwath G 2-33, Riyaz Pasha 3-19).

**SWR Rail Club, Bengaluru: 63 all out in 16.2 overs** (Pavan Shirdi 3-14, Umesh Basanniyavar 3-10) **lost to Bosch SC, Naganathapura: 64/2 in 5 overs.**

**VISL CC, Bhadravathi: 144/7 in 20 overs** (Raghu Jagthap 28, Tanmay M 53; Abhin SP 3-21) **bt LIC SC: 124/8 in 20 overs** (Rishab Navarathan 45, Karan U 45; Yogi 2-31, N Boloor 2-23, Shreyank Sagar 2-21).

**GTRE SC: 107/8 in 20 overs** (Kusha Panda 33, A Murali 32; KK Kantesh 4-18) **lost to BEML Sports Club, KGF: 109/2 in 11.3 overs** (Ananthavishnu MH 56n.o).

**ITI SC: 171/4 in 20 overs** (Prabhu G 25, Sandopu Teja 32, Joseph Raj T 51, Thofique R 46; Munindra R 2-26, M Basavaraja 2-30) **bt BHEL EPD CSBD: 166/6 in 20 overs** (M Basavaraja 86; Srinivasa T 2-39).

**BEMRC Cricket: 107 all out in 19.3 overs** (Karthik J 3-21, Krishnamurthy T 2-18, Gaurav 2-10) **lost to**

**KSCA LEAGUE**

**Continental Automotive CC: 109/3 in 16.5 over** (Krishnamurthy T 41, Thejas L 28).

**BEML Rail Coach: 145/6 in 20 overs** (Vineeth Manjunath 45, Suraj VL 74; Chiragj 2-31, Nikhil Vedanth 2-18) **lost to L&T Construction Equipments Sports Club: 150/1 in 14.1 overs** (Pruthviraj K B 63n.o, Nikhil Vedanth RV 67n.o) .

**Hutti Gold Mines CC, Hutti: 140/9 in 20 overs** (Adarsh MA 4-31) **lost to BWSSB Employees Association: 142/2 in 13.3 overs** (Renuka Prasad 27, CR Kumarswamy 57n.o).

**Commercial Tax CC: 112/9 in 18 overs** (Ajay Bhide 2-26, Vineeth B 2-18, Raghavendra HS 4-18) **lost to Infosys CC: 115/5 in 16.4 overs** (Sachin Rajput 45; Aries KA 2-17, Jeevan CM 2-30).

**CMTI Club: 138/8 in 20 overs** (Abdul Rehman 37, Oguboyina Vinod 26; Anvith M 3-35, Vinu Prasad 3-25) **lost to Union Bank of India: 140/3 in 19.3 overs** (Syed Salahuddin 64n.o).

**CIL SC: 138/8 in 20 overs** (Aryan BV 72; Akshay BV 2-24, Koushik BP 3-17, Shivashankar Chinagudi 2-13) **lost to Karnataka Postal SC: 139/4 in 16.1 overs** (Kishore Naik K 89, Shivashankar Chinagudi 28n.o; Kapil 2-15).

**South Railway Institute, Mysuru : 135/4 in 20 overs** (Nishit Srivatsa UB 43, Dhananjaya S 35n.o; Ashwani Kumar Mishra 2-19) **bt IAF, Yelahanka: 111 all out in 19.2 overs** (Nishit Srivatsa 2-22, Raghavendra MV 2-27, Suhas B S 2-14, Surendra Rathore 2-16).

**ADE Sports Club: 181/3 in 20 overs** (Pratham R 25, Akash V 64, Pravesh KM 52n.o) **bt Deccan Herald & Prajavani SC: 96/6 in 20 overs** (Raunak 44, Syed Nasheed 34; Shabahat Hussain 2-19, Akash Pal 2-4, Bablu Nayak 2-4).

**BDSA, South Western Railway, Bengaluru: 132/8 in 20 overs** (Varun K 43, Pralayakaveri Kumar 36; Somashekara Murthy 2-23, Siddarameshwara HM 2-20) **lost to KSP CC: 133/3 in 13.2 overs** (Rakesh NK 46; Doddi Bala Ganesh 2-29).

**Karnataka Government Secretariat CC: 157/8 in 20 overs** (Smaran Ramesh 55; Ravi Kumar 2-27, Arjun Yalavarthi 2-24, Shiva Kumar SM 3-41) **lost to LRDE SC: 161/4 in 15.2 overs** (Vishwa H 77, Karan Raghavendra 53n.o; Krishna KV 2-19).

**IAF, Jalahalli: 90 all out in 19.4 overs** (Arnav Kush 25; Sitaram Meena 5-11, Manjunath 4-22) **lost to Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram: 95/5 in 17.4 overs** (Likith Gowda M 32; Ashish Kumar 2-16).

**BHEL EDN Sports Club: 130/3 in 20 overs** (Praveen Pattar 45, Susheel Gowda 26n.o) **bt Bangalore Dairy SC: 107/9 in 20 overs** (Akarsh GN 40; Sunil Kumar M 2-11, Mahesh Acharya 2-20, Sunil BB 3-17).

**Titan Company Ltd Cricket Club: 250/4 in 20 overs** (Karna Varnshi 87, Mohith BA 36, Dheeraj Mohan 25, Surakshith BM 50, Pavan Kumar A 50n.o) **bt NAL Staff Club: 142/6 in 20 overs** (Naveen V 34, Mahesha N 48; Santhosh Kumar M 3-20, Velmuruga M 2-12).

## MSRIT EMERGE CHAMPS

MSRIT clinched the MS Ramaiah Memorial state-level inter-engineering college cricket tournament in Bengaluru on Thursday. They scored a 41-run win against DSCE in the final as Rohan N starred with a six-wicket haul.

**Brief scores: MSRIT: 229/6 in 30 overs** (Sreecharan 68, Vishnu Goudar 58, Karthikeyan 2-48, Rohit 2-41) **bt DSCE - 188 in 29.1 overs** (Vibhu M 78, Sainanda N 51; Rohan N 6-31, Pranesh 2-32).

**Abhinav, Nakshatra end fourth:** Karnataka's Abhinav Anand and Nakshatra Gumudavelly finished fourth in the 13th National Amateur

## ROUND-UP

Chess Championships, which ended in Hosur recently. Abhinav scored 7 out of a maximum 9 points for a creditable top-5 finish in the Under 2300 open category. Ayaan Phutane scored 6.5/9 points and finished in the ninth position. In the women's section, Nakshatra (6.5 points) was followed by Krupha S Ukkali (6 points) and Anandhi P (5) in fifth and sixth place, respectively, in the women's U-23 category. In the U-1700 Women category, Disha UA scored 7.5/9 points to bag third place. A total of 999 players from 24 states participated in the nine-round tournament. TNN

REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05. RNI NO. 45486/85.
Published for the proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., by Manjeet Singh Dhami at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru - 560025 (Phones, Office: EPABX - 080-42200000, Editorial: 080-40767676 ) and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9(10-11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560099 (Ph: 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400 001. Editor (Bengaluru Market): Neelam Raaj- responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. ©All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

"WE'LL REFLECT AS A GROUP. BUT I'M VERY PROUD OF THESE GUYS. THEY PLAYED SOME REALLY GOOD CRICKET THROUGHOUT THIS COMPETITION AND IT WAS JUST AN UNFORTUNATE EVENING, REALLY."
—Aiden Markram, SA CAPTAIN ON LOSS AGAINST NZ

Only New Zealand Stand In Way Of India's Title Defence After Samson's 89 Trumps Bethell's 105 As England Fall Seven Short In Steep 254-Run Chase In Semifinal

TIME TO GLOAT: Jasprit Bumrah and teammates celebrate Jacob Bethell's run out on Thursday

-Reuters

## HIGHEST TOTALS IN T20 WC

| Score | RPO | Team | Vs | Venue | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 260/6 | 13 | SL | Kenya | Johannesburg | 14.9.2007 |
| 256/4 | 12.8 | Ind | Zim | Chennai | 26.2.2026 |
| 254/6 | 12.7 | WI | Zim | Mumbai (WS) | 23.2.2026 |
| **253/7** | **12.6** | **India** | **Eng** | **Mumbai (WS)** | **5.3.2026** |
| 235/5 | 11.7 | Ire | Oman | Colombo (SSC) | 14.2.2026 |
| 230/8 | 11.6 | Eng | SA | Mumbai (WS) | 18.3.2016 |

**253** India's score is the first total of 250+ in T20 WC knockout matches, bettering the 205/4 by WI vs Aus in Colombo (RPS) on Oct 5, 2012.

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# SO NEAR...

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**Mumbai:** India, you can breathe again! After 34 sixes and 499 runs were scored across 40 overs, it all came down to one big hit that England could not produce. Eventually, Suryakumar Yadav's men evaded the proverbial banana peel at the Wankhede on Thursday night and are now in the final of the T20 World Cup.

England's hero was 22-year-old Jacob Bethell, who smashed a 48-ball 105 (8x4; 7x6), his maiden T20I century, to give India a massive scare before the hosts kept their nerve to seal a thrilling seven-run win.

Having become the first defending champions ever to reach the final, Suryakumar Yadav & Co. will now take on New Zealand in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on Sunday night, hoping to become the first team to defend their title and the first host nation to clinch the trophy.

Chasing 254, England were kept in the hunt by Bethell, who added 77 for the fifth wicket in 39 balls with Will Jacks (35; 20b, 4x4, 2x6) and then 50 in 27 balls for the sixth wicket with Sam Curran (18; 14b, 2x4).

However, delivering a masterclass on a pitch which offered nothing but grief for the bowlers, the peerless Jasprit Bumrah (1/33 in 4 overs) conceded 14 runs off his last two overs while Hardik Pandya (2/38 in 4 overs) gave away just nine in the penultimate over of the match, with England needing 39 off the last two.

**499** Match-aggregate for the loss of 14 wickets in the India vs England T20 World Cup encounter is the second highest in the history of T20Is behind the 517 in a T20I involving South Africa and West Indies in Centurion on March 26, 2023.

England had to get 30 to get off the last over but could take away only 22 off Shivam Dube as India heaved a sigh of relief. England finished at 246-7 in 20 overs.

The biggest stars of India's nerve-jangling win, though, were Axar Patel — who pulled off two stunning catches to send back Harry Brook and Jacks — and Sanju Samson, who continued his fairytale comeback by smashing 89 off just 42 balls (8x4, 7x6) to power the Men in Blue to 253/7.

Axar's stunning catch running 24 metres from point to send back Brook was a special moment which brought back memories of Kapil Dev's famous grab of Viv Richards in the final of the 1983 World Cup at Lord's. Bumrah, too, deserves credit for that wicket for producing a special slower one.

In the 14th over of England's spirited chase, Axar conjured up magic again. This time, sprinting from deep cover, he lobbed the ball to Shivam Dube before crossing the boundary. Dube caught it comfortably to send back Jacks.

Earlier, apart from Samson's blazing knock, several power-packed cameos enabled India to have just about enough runs in the bank.

Samson is turning out to be the biggest hero of their campaign, a scenario few would imagine when the batter was going through a lean patch not too long ago. Coming off a match-winning 97-run knock against West Indies in the 'virtual quarter-final' in Kolkata, Samson put the English attack to the sword.

Riding on the raw power of Samson and several other impactful contributions, India raced away to the highest-ever score in a knockout match of the T20 World Cup.

England were left to rue a massive mistake from their skipper as Brook dropped Samson when he was on 15, at mid-on off Jofra Archer in the third over. It cost them 74 runs in 36 balls, as Samson was simply unstoppable after that.

With Samson leading the way, Shivam Dube (43, 25b, 1x4, 4x6), Ishan Kishan (39, 18b, 4x4, 2x6), Pandya (27, 12b, 3x4, 2x6) and Tilak Varma (21, 7b, 3x6) went all guns blazing.

### SCOREBOARD

**India:** S Samson c Salt b Jacks 89, A Sharma c Salt b Jacks 9, I Kishan c Jacks b Rashid 39, S Dube run out 43; S Yadav st Buttler b Rashid 11, H Pandya run out 27, T Varma b Archer 21, A Patel not out 2, V Chakaravarthy not out 0; **Extras: (b2, lb1, wd9) 12; Total: (7 wkts) 253; FoW:** 1-20, 2-117, 3-160, 4-190, 5-212, 6-236, 7-251; **Bowling:** Archer 4-0-61-1, Jacks 4-0-40-2, Overton 3-0-36-0, Curran 4-0-53-0, Rashid 4-0-41-2, Dawson 1-0-19-0.

**England:** P Salt c Axar b Pandya 5, J Buttler b Varun 25, H Brook c Axar b Bumrah 7, J Bethell run out 105, T Banton b A Patel 17, W Jacks c Dube b Arshdeep 35, S Curran c Varma b Pandya 18, J Overton not out 2, J Archer not out 19; **Extras: (lb3, w10) 13; Total: (7 wkts) 246; FoW:** 1-13, 2-38, 3-64, 4-95, 5-172, 6-222, 7-225; **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-51-1, Pandya 4-0-38-2, Bumrah 4-0-33-1, Varun 4-0-64-1, Axar 3-0-35-1, Dube 1-0-22-0.

**RESULT:** India beat England by 7 runs

"I knew I got some form going from the last game. I thought I need to make the most of it and gave myself extra time. England came close. We've played a lot of cricket here, we know chasing is easier here. Happy to get whatever I'm getting in a winning effort."
—Sanju Samson | INDIA BATTER

"I'll hold my hand up and admit I made a big mistake dropping Samson. We weren't good enough in the field. We misexecuted, we can't afford to do that against India. Bethell was absolutely unbelievable."
—Harry Brook | ENGLAND CAPTAIN

### ODIs THEN, T20Is NOW!

Identical team scores of 253 and 246 were seen in the ODI World Cup final between Australia and England at the Eden Gardens on Nov 8, 1987. Australia won that match by 7 runs.

**1** India are now the first team to boast two scores of 250+ in the T20 World Cup. The other one is 256/4 vs Zimbabwe in Chennai on Feb 26, 2026.

**89** Sanju Samson's first fifty vs England is his fifth, apart from 3 hundreds, in T20Is. His innings is the highest by a batter in knockout matches vs England in the T20 World Cup.

**1** Having scored 97 not out in his previous innings vs West Indies at Eden Gardens, Samson has become the first Indian batter to register two successive scores of 85+ in the T20 World Cup.

**105** Jacob Bethell has scored maiden century T20Is. His previus best was the 62* vs WI in Gros Islet on Nov 16, 2024.

# Sanju reclaims bragging rights against nemesis Jofra Archer

## Opener Profits From Brook's Drop Off Eng Pacer To Exorcise Ghosts Of 2025 Series

Rajesh.Pansare@timesofindia.com

SAMSON

**Mumbai:** Harry Brook tried to laugh it off as he stood with his hands on his knees. Jofra Archer turned back dejected as he walked towards his mark and Sanju Samson heaved a sigh of relief as he marked his guard.

It was a pivotal moment of the match in the third over, the second bowled by Archer, when the right-arm pacer got Samson to mistime a drive straight to Brook at mid-on. The England captain, though, ended up spilling a dolly. Samson, who was 15 off seven balls at that point, went on to add another 74 off 35 after that in a breathtaking assault on the England bowlers.

England had an opportunity to reduce India to 24/2 and tighten their grip on the match. Instead, they were left ruing things as the Kerala cricketer went on a rampage, scoring an entertaining 42-ball 89 that was built on the back of eight fours and seven sixes, to help India post 253/7. Samson's knock was the joint-third highest score in a T20 World Cup match, alongside Virat Kohli's unbeaten 89 against West Indies in the 2016 edition at the same venue.

With every Samson boundary, Brook got more and more worried. As Samson cut, pulled, and drove everything that was bowled at him, Brook would have felt like Herschelle Gibbs, who dropped Steve Waugh during the 1999 World Cup.

Everyone was looking forward to the Archer vs Samson match-up, especially with the Englishman dominating the Indian opener during the T20I series at the start of last year. Samson struggled against Archer's pace and short-pitched stuff, scored only 25 runs off the 23 balls he faced, and was dismissed three times.

To add to his woes, an Archer rocket fractured Samson's right index finger in the last T20I of that series at this very venue, which sidelined him for a month.

On Wednesday, Samson took guard against Archer, but unlike the 2025 T20I series, where his confidence plummeted with every low-scoring outing, he entered the semifinal on the back of a match-winning 97 against West Indies. He hoicked Archer's third for a boundary over mid-on and then deposited a misdirected short ball over deep fine leg for a six.

In the third over, the 31-year-old's heart would have been in his mouth as he watched his drive sailing straight to Brook but once he saw it spooned, he quickly regathered his thoughts and, two balls later, pulled his nemesis for six over cow corner.

Archer returned in the 13th over but Samson deposited two of the three balls he faced over the boundary. In total, Samson faced 14 balls from Archer and took 38 runs off him.

# ICC arranges charter for return of Windies team

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**Mumbai:** Forced to stay back in India following the end of their campaign in the T20 World Cup, the West Indies team might finally be able to fly home on a chartered flight on Friday with assistance from the International Cricket Council, **TOI** has learnt.

The departures of both West Indies and Zimbabwe were delayed after the situation in West Asia led to widespread flight cancellations and airspace closures, disrupting key transit hubs. "West Indies are likely to fly back home via a chartered flight on Friday, with assistance from the ICC. The details of this chartered flight arrangement are being worked out," a source said.

Another source said ICC chairperson Jay Shah, CEO Sanjog Gupta and the head of events have been in regular contact with Cricket West Indies and the team management to ensure a safe return.

West Indies head coach Darren Sammy posted on X on Wednesday: "I just wanna go home," reflecting the team's frustration at being stranded in Kolkata. The Caribbean side had been scheduled to leave soon after losing their final Super 8 match to India in Kolkata.

Late on Thursday, Cricket West Indies (CWI) released a statement confirming the development. "During a high-level call earlier today, it was confirmed that a charter flight is currently being arranged for the team's departure from India, with the expected departure scheduled within the next 24 hours. The departure time remains subject to final air traffic approvals," the statement said.

### Zimbabwe leave in batches

Zimbabwe, also stranded after exiting the Super 8, have begun returning home in batches after the ICC arranged alternate routes following the cancellation of their flight via Dubai. The team is travelling to Harare via Addis Ababa, with the first group leaving on Wednesday and the final group scheduled to depart on Friday afternoon, Zimbabwe Cricket said.

### South Africa next

The ICC is also working on South Africa's return travel after their semifinal loss to New Zealand. A source said the team is most likely to fly via Ethiopian Airlines, with Emirates and Etihad gradually restoring routes.

### Rashid removed as Afghan T20I skipper

**Kabul:** Afghanistan replaced Rashid Khan with Ibrahim Zadran as skipper on Thursday for the T20I series against Sri Lanka. Afghanistan crashed out in the first round of the T20 World Cup after losing to South Africa and New Zealand. The team is monitoring the situation in the UAE, which is slated to stage the Lanka series. AGENCIES

# Finn Allen thunderclap becomes instant folklore

## From Auckland's Sleepless Living Room to Eden's Roaring Ring, Batter Sends Kiwis Soaring Into Final

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PTI

**Kolkata:** The morning after, it all still felt slightly unreal. As if Eden Gardens briefly slipped out of normal time and nobody told South Africa. Semifinals are meant to be nervy, nail-biting affairs, not a one-sided knockout blow, that too from the underdog team. Finn Allen's unbeaten 33-ball century, however, did all that and more as New Zealand barged into the T20 World Cup final by beating South Africa. The knock was a highlights reel that will be played years from now.

Back home, many in New Zealand would have been watching through heavy eyelids. The Allen family in Auckland, however, had no chance of sleep as their son went hammer and tongs and made a formidable South African attack look pedestrian. "I'm sure my parents were up watching the whole game. Hopefully they're proud," Allen said with a smile after the game.

The numbers will do the rounds for years, because they have to: 100* off 33 balls, the fastest century in a men's T20 World Cup match, with 10 fours and eight sixes and 88 runs in boundaries. It's the kind of arithmetic that looks like a misprint until you remember you saw it live.

The real shock wasn't just Finn's rate of scoring, it was the ease with which he made quality bowling feel optional. South Africa's plans barely had time to take shape before they were being hit back into the stands. One moment the chase seemed a contest, the next it was Allen picking his spots, trusting his swing and stretching the bounds of the possible.

It wasn't even a one-man ambush from ball one. Tim Seifert was the first to throw the punch, racing ahead while Allen warmed to the night. Allen's 'switch' flicked late in the Powerplay, a single over that became ignition, and the mood of the stadium changed with it. The rest was a blur of clean strikes and louder disbelief. "We don't really have a plan, me and Timmy. We just try and be positive and hope for the best," he said.

Allen's route here hasn't been a straight line. He didn't make an immediate splash after debuting in 2021, but the last year has been a steady accumulation of evidence that this is what he does when the ball is there to be hit. In Major League Cricket, he tore up the format with a 151 featuring a world-record 19 sixes — only for a foot injury to interrupt the surge.

The comeback, though, has been emphatic. In the Big Bash League, he was Perth Scorchers' title-driving force: 466 runs, and a competition record 38 sixes — a season-long trailer for the mayhem he would later unleash at Eden.

No wonder Kolkata Knight Riders moved quickly at the IPL auction, snapping him up for 2 crore — a signing that already feels like a steal in a summer of power-hitters. For all the battering up front, Allen was careful not to frame it as a solo act. He pointed to New Zealand's bowlers for setting the tone, especially in the Powerplay, and for refusing to let South Africa's muscle settle.

"The bowlers set the tone for us by taking early wickets on what we thought was going to be a really good batting wicket. They've (South Africa) got an incredibly powerful batting line-up and hats off to the boys with the ball," he said.

He also underlined the value of the group-stage lesson against the same opposition — the kind of detail that gets lost once an innings like this takes over the story. "We looked closely at that first game against them," he said. "Playing them earlier gave us a bit of insight into their plans and we tried to use that to our advantage," he confided.

Even the toss, Allen suggested, mattered — and New Zealand made sure the first small win didn't go to waste. "We just hoped (Mitch) Santner would win a toss and he did that. So that was the first part done. From then onwards it was just, take the bull by the horns. Take the game on, not shy away from any challenge," he explained.

On the team's chances in the final, Allen said, "It's a new opposition, under different conditions. We just look to take the positives out of this game and get a flight to Ahmedabad and start again. I think if we play our best cricket we can beat just about anybody."

**SCORES:** New Zealand 173/1 in 12.5 overs (Allen 100*, Seifert 58; Rabada 1-28) beat South Africa 169/8 (Jansen 55*; McConchie 2-9, Ravindra 2-29, Henry 2-34) by 9 wickets.

**1** Allen is the first batter to score a century in T20 WC knockout matches. England's Jacob Bethell on Thursday night became the second to reach the milestone.
—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

### MOST SIXES IN AN INNINGS IN T20 WORLD CUP KNOCKOUT MATCHES

| Batter | Sixes |
|---|---|
| Finn Allen (NZ; 100* off 33b vs SA, Kolkata 2026) | 8 |
| Alex Hales (Eng; 86* off 47b vs Ind, Adelaide 2022) | 7 |
| Mike Hussey (Aus; 60* off 24b vs Pak, Gros Islet 2010) | 6 |
| Chris Gayle (WI; 75* off 41b vs Aus, Colombo 2012) | 6 |
| Marlon Samuels (WI; 78 off 56b vs SL, Colombo 2012) | 6 |

### MOST SIXES IN A SINGLE EDITION OF THE T20 WORLD CUP

| Batter | Sixes |
|---|---|
| Finn Allen (NZ; 2026) | 20 |
| Shimron Hetmyer (WI; 2026) | 19 |
| Sahibzada Farhan (Pak; 2026) | 18 |
| Nicholas Pooran (WI; 2024) | 17 |
| Chris Gayle (WI; 2012) | 16 |

### FINN ALLEN IN T20Is

| | M | I | NO | Runs | HS | Ave | 100 | 50 | SR | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall | 61 | 60 | 3 | 1654 | 137 | 29.01 | 3 | 7 | 171 | 115 |
| In wins | 37 | 37 | 3 | 1314 | 137 | 38.64 | 3 | 6 | 180 | 90 |
| In T20WC (2021-2026) | 17 | 16 | 2 | 419 | 100* | 29.92 | 1 | 1 | 177.54 | 26 |
| TC20 WC 2026 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 289 | 100* | 57.8 | 1 | 1 | 203.52 | 20 |

# Didn't choke, it was a walloping: SA coach Conrad

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**Kolkata:** Very few expected the T20 World Cup semifinal to go the way it did at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. More so the South Africans, who stood shell-shocked after being blown away by New Zealand, with the game getting added to their list of heartbreaks in ICC tournaments.

Naturally the 'choker' word, so infamously associated with South Africa over the years, resurfaced in post-match interactions. "I don't know if tonight was a choke. I thought it was a bloody walloping," coach Shukri Conrad said bluntly. "In order to choke, you must have had a sniff in the game. We didn't have a sniff. In South Africa, we'd say we 'got *moered* (violent assault)'," he added. "Tonight, we got a proper *snotklap*, also a South African word meaning a real hiding."

SA skipper Aiden Markram echoed the same feeling. "Yeah, hugely disappointed," Markram said. "It's not a big slap in the face, but it feels like it," he summed it up.

Conrad accepted that they were outplayed by their rivals. "A lot didn't go right tonight. But that was probably enforced because New Zealand were really, really good tonight. They gave us absolutely nothing and they really squeezed particularly well. Their spinners were exceptional in those conditions," he stated.

"The calibre of bowling tonight, coupled with the wicket, made it particularly tough for us," he added.

South Africa's batting coach Ashwell Prince was disappointed since the side came into the contest as favourites after an unbeaten run in the tournament.

SHUKRI CONRAD

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BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.56 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 48 | PRICE ₹6

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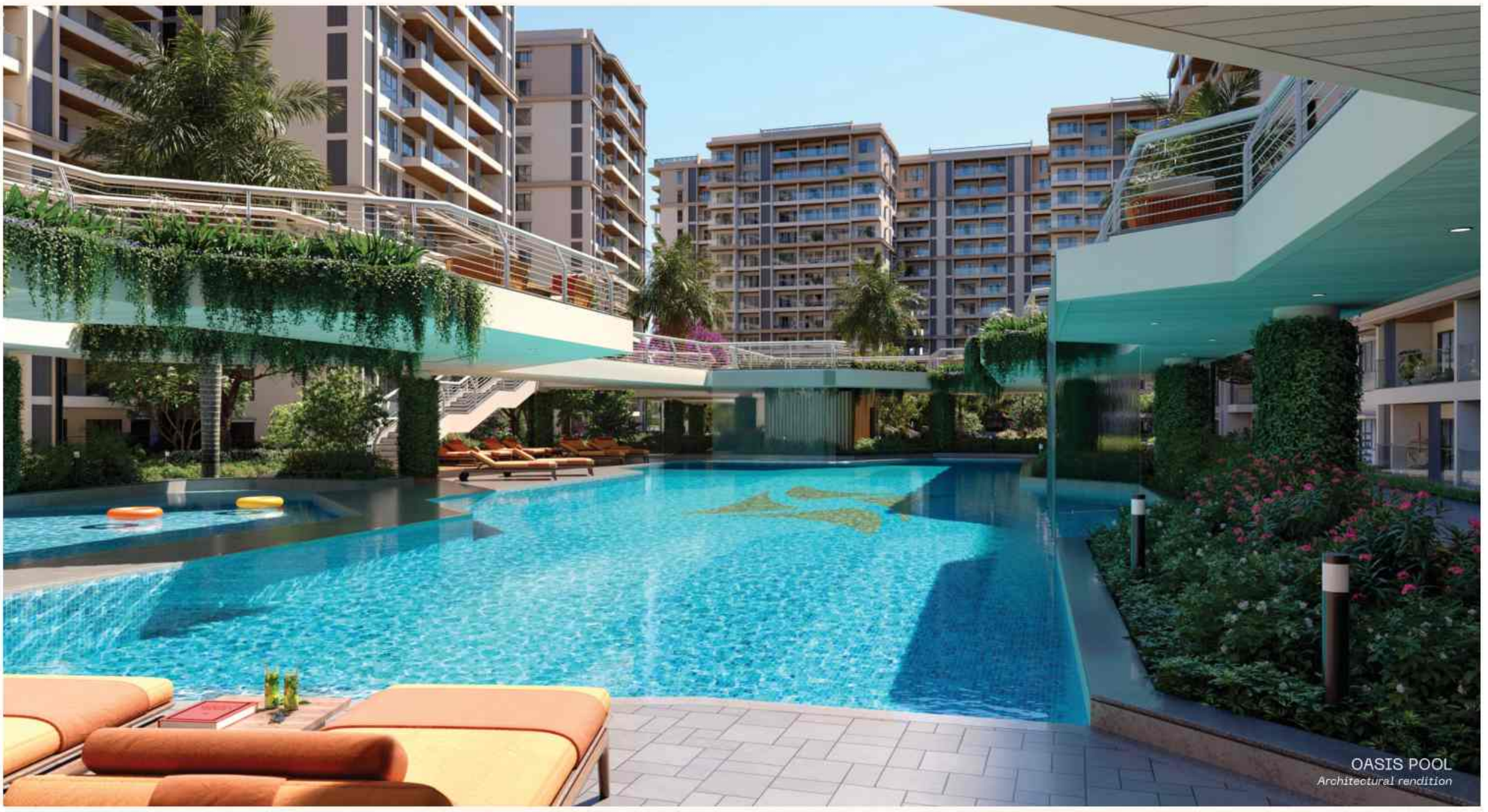

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## TAMIL NADU BARS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS AMID CONTROVERSY OVER RIGHT WING OUTFIT-LINKED CAMPS 8

Photos: PTI/AFP

# INDIA SURVIVE BETHELL BLITZ, HEAD TO AHD FOR FINAL RECKONING

**Team India has a golden opportunity to heal the wounds of Nov 19, 2023 — the ODI World Cup final, lost to Australia — as it heads to the same venue, Ahmedabad, for Sunday's final against NZ**

➤ **Sanju Samson**, fresh from his heroics against West Indies, was **on 15 when England skipper Harry Brook dropped a dolly**. Samson made England pay, slamming a **quickfire 89 off 42 balls**

➤ Shivam Dube chipped in with 43 off 25 as India surged to 253/7, **a world record in a T20 WC knockout match**. Along the way, **India broke the record (76) for most sixes hit by a team in any WC**

➤ The English came out swinging, and persisted despite losing wickets. **Brooks's nightmare continued** as Axar Patel took a stunning catch to dismiss him for 7

➤ **Jacob Bethell** hit 3 consecutive sixes off Varun as he raced to his 50 off 19 balls, the **fastest half-ton ever by an English player in a T20 WC**. He got good support from Will Jacks, who made 35 off 20 balls, before **Axar pulled off another stunner**, lobbing the ball to Dube for a relay catch before going over the rope

➤ Bethell battled on to bring up a **superb century off 45 balls** as tension mounted. But Tilak caught Sam Curran right on the boundary as Bethell began to run out of support

➤ With 30 to get off the last over, **Bethell was run out desperately going for a non-existent second run**. Jofra Archer bashed 19 off 4 balls but England's gallant chase **finally fell short by 7 runs**

Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and captain Suryakumar Yadav celebrate the wicket of England's Will Jacks

Jacob Bethell

Sanju Samson

FULL COVERAGE P 19

# India finally condoles killing of Khamenei; ministers talk

## Meeting Today With Visiting Dy Fgn Minister?

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**New Delhi:** Foreign secretary Vikram Misri signed the book of condolence — on behalf of the Indian govt and people — opened at the Iranian embassy Thursday, following the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei on Feb 28, amid criticism over India's silence.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterpart Abbas Araghchi, and posted about the "telecon" on X, without elaborating. Araghchi had said earlier in the day that the Iranian warship destroyed by a US submarine was a guest of the Indian Navy.

The two sides may have their first high-level contact since the war began, Friday, with Tehran seeking a meeting for visiting deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. It is learnt that Misri may meet the minister who is in India for the Raisina Dialogue.

▶Iran minister in India, P 11

ANI

Foreign secy Vikram Misri at the Iranian embassy Thursday

## No issue can be resolved just through conflict: PM

**New Delhi:** After a meeting with Finland President Alexander Stubb, PM Narendra Modi said Thursday both countries were in agreement that no issue can be resolved solely through military conflict. Whether in Ukraine or West Asia, India and Finland will continue to support efforts aimed at the early end of conflict and restoration of peace, said the PM after the meeting that saw the two countries upgrade their relations to a strategic partnership in digitalisation and sustainability.

The two countries also signed an MoU for partnership in migration and mobility and agreed to the creation of a joint task force on 6G.

On regional and global issues, the focus was on the Russia-Ukraine war. Modi said India and Finland both believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy. TNN

▶Modi, Macron discuss need for dialogue, P 11

ANI

PM Modi with President Stubb

▶See INSIDE FLAP

## Qatar fallout: GAIL says LNG supplies may be hit

**New Delhi:** State-run GAIL India Thursday said its supplies from Petronet LNG may be hit due to curtailments from QatarEnergy, even as govt is in talks with Australia and Canada to purchase gas, **reports Atul Mathur**.

On Wednesday, Petronet had informed stock exchanges about the force majeure notice from QatarEnergy which was forced to stop production after a strike by Iran, affecting nearly a fifth of global supplies. It had issued notices to GAIL, IndianOil and Bharat Petroleum, which have agreements with the LNG player.

"GAIL is currently assessing the situation with respect to any supply curtailment that may need to be imposed on its downstream customers. Notwithstanding the above, LNG supplies to GAIL from other sources/suppliers are currently unaffected. At this stage, the potential impact of the ongoing force majeure situation cannot be quantified," the PSU is said in an exchange filing.

▶Supply curbs likely, P 17

### Sensex recovers 900pts, Re gains 55p

Sensex regained a portion of the 2,300-point loss recorded in the two previous sessions and rose, gaining 900 points (1.1%) at 80,016pts Thursday, after Iran's foreign minister said the country was ready for talks with the US. The rupee, too, recovered 55 paise to close at Rs 91.6 per dollar. P17

## After US sinks one, Iranian vessel seeks Lankan refuge

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**New Delhi:** A day after a US submarine sank the Iranian warship IRIS Dena carrying 130 personnel in international waters off the Sri Lankan coast, killing 87 sailors, Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi warned that the US would "regret" the torpedo attack. He said the frigate had come to India as a "guest of the Indian Navy" for an exercise last month.

Even as he issued the warning, another Iranian warship has moved toward Lankan waters seeking refuge.

Official sources in India emphasised IRIS Dena was targeted in international waters, and it happened after the conclusion of the International Fleet Review and subsequent MILAN exercise on Feb 25. The frigate was around the international shipping lane when it was attacked.

Indian Navy Thursday said it joined search and rescue operation after learning about a distress call from IRIS Dena. The Navy said it promptly launched search and rescue efforts with a long-range maritime patrol aircraft at 10 am Wednesday to augment Sri Lanka's efforts.

▶Navy rescued 32, P 11

Iran has warned the US would regret IRIS Dena (above) sinking

## US court: Cos are entitled to tariff refunds

A federal judge in New York has ruled that companies that paid tariffs struck down last month by Supreme Court are due for refunds. Judge Richard Eaton of the US Court of International Trade wrote that "all importers of record" were "entitled to benefit" from the Supreme Court. The order says that refunds are not limited to select plaintiffs.

The federal govt collected more than $130 billion in the now-defunct tariffs through mid-Dec. The Supreme Court had found those tariffs to be unconstitutional under the emergency powers law. P 16

## *Over 60% turnout as Nepal votes in 'historic' polls powered by Gen Z*

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**Kathmandu:** As Nepal went to the polls on Thursday, the country's Gen Z voters — many of whom participated in the Sept protests that reshaped the country's politics — turned out in large numbers for the snap parliamentary elections, with students and young workers queueing outside polling booths set up in schools, temples, community gathering spaces. Many travelled for days across the Himalayan country to reach their constituencies.

Kathmandu's roads were largely empty after the Election Commission of Nepal enforced its routine election-day vehicle ban, leaving voters to walk the last stretch to polling stations.

Acting chief election commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari said preliminary turnout stood slightly above 60% at 5pm, adding that the figure was expected to rise once data from remote and mountainous districts arrived. "Gen Z voters appeared pleased with the conduct of the polls and that their enthusiasm has been striking," he said. "Their willpower and passion for voting were high."

Nepal's parliament has 275 seats, of which 110 are allocated through proportional representation, meaning the final nationwide tally may take several days as ballots arrive from distant regions.

▶Hopes of youth, P 9

Reuters

Women vote at a polling station in Kathmandu on Thursday

# Rising op costs, fares add to West Asia flight nightmare

## 10-12% Hike In Gulf Fares Unavoidable, Hint Airlines

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Connectivity remains the primary concern as bringing Indians stranded overseas safely home is the highest priority

**New Delhi**: The expanding war in West Asia is giving twin nightmares to airlines — especially Indian ones due to the closure of Pakistan airspace to them — and passengers stuck here and abroad.

Connectivity remains the primary concern as bringing Indians stranded overseas safely home is the highest priority. Second, a sharp hike in operating costs for airlines along with a demand-supply mismatch has led to fares skyrocketing for passengers. Airlines say a minimum 10%-12% hike in West Asian fares is unavoidable even as they keep an eye on changing airspace closures in war zones.

Air India has done a payload analysis and if Saudi and Oman airspaces get impacted, its flights to Europe, UK and North America will become unviable. Govt is yet to clear Air India's request to allow its Boeing 787-9s (not AI's legacy Dreamliners) and Airbus A350s to fly from Delhi to Leh, enter China passing a waypoint called Hotan, and then take the Central Asia route to the west — bypassing the entire war zone.

"The B787-9s and A350s have additional oxygen storage which allows them a longer time to descend to 10,000 feet by flying out of the high-terrain region in case of single-engine failure. All studies have been done and this has been found technically feasible," said a person familiar with the deliberations.

AI has made a strong case for getting clearance for the Hotan route, saying it will rid it of the "constant nuisance" of Pakistan airspace closure.

Western airlines like Lufthansa and United are not impacted much by the West Asian crisis when it comes to flights to and from India thanks to Pakistan airspace being open to them.

The increase in operating costs of carriers has led to a rise in ticket prices, with demand-supply mismatch adding to the fire. For instance, an Indian studying in Ireland who came to New Delhi in Feb to attend his grandfather's last rites now faces fares of up to Rs 4 lakh to return to college.

A senior executive at an Indian airline said: "Insurance costs for flights to West Asia have soared by as much as Rs 30 lakh to 40 lakh for a wide body's return trip and Rs 90 lakh to Rs 1 crore for a wide body's return journey. Aviation turbine fuel price this month was hiked by 6%. The rupee keeps crashing to new all-time lows. We have to take much longer routes. Our costs have gone through the roof. The flights to West Asia hardly have any passengers and are full on the way back."

With flights reduced and huge uncertainty over operations, airlines say they are having a tough time selling tickets. "We are unable to sell inventory on these flights in advance and filling up aircraft on short notice is leading to low flight loads, resulting in a higher cost of operation," an executive said.

"Pakistan airspace closure started on April 24, 2025, and operating costs for Indian carriers with substantial western operations like AI Group and IndiGo have risen since then. We have been asking for fiscal relief like from excise or GST," said an official.

## Emirates resumes 'reduced schedule'

**New Delhi:** Emirates on Thursday said it was "operating a reduced flight schedule until further notice" thanks to the "limited reopening of airspace". Among the destinations being served are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram. TNN

## Bones found in captain's cabin

**Patna:** Four days after the captain of oil tanker 'Skylight', along with a crew member, went missing after the ship was attacked in the Gulf of Oman, family members got an update Thursday that some bones were recovered from his cabin. The captain, Ashish Kumar, is a resident of Bettiah in Bihar's West Champaran district. TNN

## No panic buying yet but crowds surge at fuel stns

**Kolkata:** Fuel stations in parts of Kolkata and Howrah witnessed unusually long queues during evening peak hours this week as motorists rushed to fill up tanks amid rumours of an impending petrol shortage or a steep price hike, reports **Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay**.

Dealers said sporadic bouts of panic buying occurred during the evening commute. At several outlets, motorists queued up asking for 'tank-full' refills, leading to serpentine queues and waiting times stretching beyond an hour in some cases.

The surge in demand came despite repeated assurances from oil marketing companies that adequate fuel stocks were available.

Arun Singhania, president of West Bengal Petroleum Dealers' Association, said there was no evidence of widespread panic buying.

## Family seeks govt help to bring sick kid back from Iran

**Jaipur:** A family in the Walled City area has appealed to govt to evacuate their six-year-old granddaughter from Iran's Qom district, citing her fragile health, reports **Shoeb Khan**.

Habib Zehra has been anxiously tracking news updates as her daughter, Hina Taqvi, son-in-law Hasan Abbas and granddaughter Maryam remain in Qom, reportedly witnessing heavy missile attacks. The family says they have been unable to contact them since the afternoon of Feb 28. The last message they received from Hina read: "Pray for us."

Maryam suffers from a serious neurological condition that requires frequent hospitalisation and specialised care. With tensions rising, the family fears access to treatment could be disrupted.

# Rahul questions PM's 'silence' on warship sinking in 'our backyard'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Rahul Gandhi said the world had entered a volatile phase and 'stormy seas' lay ahead. 'At a moment like this, we need a steady hand at the wheel,' he said**

**New Delhi:** Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said PM Narendra Modi's silence in the wake of "conflict" and the sinking of an Iranian warship showed that the PM had "surrendered strategy sovereignty". The opposition party also slammed govt for "undoing" the foreign policy painstakingly built over the last seven decades.

Rahul said the world had entered a volatile phase and "stormy seas" lay ahead, with oil supplies and 40% of Indian imports transiting through the Strait of Hormuz under threat.

"The conflict has reached our backyard, with an Iranian warship sunk in the Indian Ocean. Yet the PM has said nothing. At a moment like this, we need a steady hand at the wheel. Instead, India has a compromised PM who has surrendered our strategic autonomy," he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the PM's silence after the sinking of the Iranian ship that was India's guest showed "Modi govt's reckless abdication of India's strategic and national interests". He also questioned the "absence" of maritime rescue and relief when 38 Indian-flagged commercial ships along with 1,100 sailors were stuck in the conflict-hit region.

He said govt had also not made public the plan to deal with rising oil prices and limited reserves, especially after agreeing with the US to stop import from Russia. One crore Indians were in Gulf region countries and there were desperate messages from medical students seeking help, he said.

"Clearly, Modi's surrender is both political and moral. It demeans India's core national interests and destroys our foreign policy carefully built and followed by successive govts over the years," Kharge said.

# Blaming India for US strike on Iran frigate illogical, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**BJP noted that the strike on the vessel occurred beyond India's territorial waters. 'Proximity can't be conflated with control or accountability,' Amit Malviya said**

**New Delhi:** Blaming India for the US strike on Iranian naval vessel IRIS Dena was both illogical and misleading, BJP said on Thursday as Congress took a swipe at govt over the attack on the warship that was returning after participating in a naval exercise in India.

BJP noted that the strike occurred around 250 nautical miles from the Indian coastline, well beyond the country's territorial waters and outside its maritime jurisdiction. Holding India accountable for an incident between the US and Iran in international waters was both factually incorrect and diplomatically untenable, it said.

"Under international maritime law, a country's responsibility does not extend to every incident that takes place in the broader oceanic region merely because it is geographically nearby. India shares maritime proximity with many countries across the Indian Ocean, but proximity cannot be conflated with control or accountability," BJP's Amit Malviya said.

He said events taking place in international waters, especially those involving third countries, fell outside India's legal or operational domain.

"Attempts to drag India into this episode ignore the basic principles of maritime jurisdiction and appear driven more by speculation and political narrative than by facts. India neither controls activities in international waters nor is it a party to actions undertaken by other sovereign nations there. In short, geography does not equal responsibility," he said.

BJP sources expressed dismay over Congress's criticism. "Those who claim to be the 'natural party of governance' cannot be expected to be so ignorant of the basics of international law.," said a senior party functionary.

# Ending Ukraine war in everyone's interest, UNSC seat for India crucial: Finland prez

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Piyal Bhattacharjee

PM Modi and Finland President Alexander Stubb agreed to continue to support efforts towards 'a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace' in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy

**New Delhi:** India and Finland both asserted on Thursday that ending the Russia-Ukraine was was "in everyone's interest" and called for reform in United Nations. Finland President Alexander Stubb said a seat in UN Security Council for India was of utmost importance.

"We also share the view that reform of global institutions is not only necessary, but urgent in order to address growing global challenges. Furthermore, eliminating terrorism in all its forms remains our shared commitment," PM Narendra Modi said.

In a joint statement, both leaders agreed to continue to support efforts towards the achievement of a "comprehensive, just, and lasting peace" in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, based on the principles of UN Charter and international law, including independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Modi said the world was passing through a phase of instability and uncertainty and several parts continued to face situations of conflict. "In such a global environment, India and Europe, two major diplomatic powers of the world, are entering a golden phase in their relationship. Our growing cooperation is imparting new strength to global stability, development, and shared prosperity," he said.

"We have conflict in both regions, in West Asia and also, of course, in Ukraine. And for us, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has lasted for too long, four years. We agreed that ending the war is in everyone's interest," said Stubb.

The Nordic country joined Nato after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Finland has emerged as an important destination for Indian professionals, particularly in technology and innovation sectors. "To connect the innovation ecosystems of our two countries, today we have concluded a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Agreement with Finland," said Modi.

Modi said the new strategic partnership would provide momentum and new energy to bilateral cooperation across several high-technology sectors. "At the same time, our partnership will deepen further in key sectors such as defence, space, semiconductors, and critical minerals. This strategic partnership between democratic and responsible nations like India and Finland will contribute to ensuring trustworthy technologies and resilient supply chains for the entire world," said the PM.